

**DECISION**



17474 *Broune*  
**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL  
OF THE UNITED STATES**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

FILE: B-199888

DATE: March 25, 1981

MATTER OF:

Roger D. Wenger *Claim for* Real Estate Expenses *]*

**DIGEST:**

Transferred employee reclaims expenses incurred in sale of residence at old duty station which were previously disallowed by his agency. Record shows that the disallowed expenses including FHA application fee, appraisal fee, tax service contract, and photo, inspection and document fees are customarily paid by the purchaser and, therefore, not for reimbursement under the Federal Travel Regulations (FPMR 101-7, May 1973).

By letter of August 6, 1980, Mr. Jefferson Wyatt, Jr., an authorized certifying officer at the Department of Energy, requests an advance decision on the reclaim voucher of Mr. Roger D. Wenger for certain real estate expenses incurred in connection with the sale of a residence in Los Angeles, California, incident to a permanent change of duty station. Specifically Mr. Wenger requests reimbursement of photo, inspection, and document fees in the amount of \$225, a tax service contract in the amount of \$17.50, an appraisal fee of \$50, and a FHA application fee of \$25. We hold that Mr. Wenger may not be reimbursed the items cited above as they are customarily paid by the purchaser of a residence, not the seller.

Reimbursement of real estate expenses incurred by an employee of the Government upon the sale of a residence incident to a permanent change of duty station may be made under the provisions of Chapter 2, Part 6 of the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR) (FPMR 101-7, May 1973). FTR para. 2-6.2d provides for the payment for the types of expenses claimed by Mr. Wenger in connection with the sale of a residence provided they are customarily paid by the seller of a residence at his old duty station to the extent the amounts claimed do not exceed the amounts customarily paid for such items in the locality of the residence. Based on information furnished by the Los Angeles Regional Office of the Federal Housing Administration indicating that the expenses claimed are customarily paid by a purchaser we hold that the claimed expenses are not

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reimbursable incident to Mr. Wenger's sale of his former residence.  
See FTR para. 2-6.3c. Accordingly, the voucher may not be certified  
for payment.

*Milton J. Fowler*

Acting Comptroller General  
of the United States