

Relocation Allowances

§ 302-2.13

§ 302-2.5 May I relocate from a location other than the location specified in my relocation travel authorization?

Yes, you may relocate from a place other than from where you are authorized. However, you will be required to pay all additional costs incurred for expenses above your authorized travel and transportation cost.

§ 302-2.6 May I be reimbursed for relocation expenses if I relocate to a new official station that is less than 50 miles from my old official duty station?

Generally no; you may not be reimbursed for relocation expenses if you relocate to a new official station that is less than 50 miles from your old official station, unless the head of the agency or designee authorizes an exception. On a case-by-case basis and having considered the following criteria, the head of your agency or designee may authorize the reimbursement of relocation expenses of less than 50 miles when he/she determines that it is in the interest of the Government: and

(a) The one way commuting pattern between the old and new official station increases by at least 10 miles but no more than 50 miles; or

(b) There is an increase in the commuting time to the new official station; or

(c) A financial hardship is imposed due to increased commuting costs.

TIME LIMITS

§ 302-2.7 When may I begin my travel and transportation after receiving authorization to do so?

You and your immediate family member(s) may begin travel immediately upon receipt of your authorized TA.

§ 302-2.8 When must I complete all aspects my relocation?

You and your immediate family member(s) must complete all aspects of your relocation within two years from the effective date of your transfer or appointment, except as provided in § 302-2.9 or § 302-2.10.

§ 302-2.9 If I am furloughed to perform active military duty, will I have to complete all aspects of the relocation within the time limitation?

No, if you are furloughed to perform active military duty, the 2-year period to complete all aspects of relocation is exclusive of time spent on furlough for active military service.

§ 302-2.10 Does the 2-year time period in § 302-2.8 include time that I cannot travel and/or transport my household effects due to shipping restrictions to or from my post of duty OCONUS?

No, the 2-year time period in § 302-2.8 does not include time that you cannot travel and/or transport your household effects due to shipping restriction to or from your post of duty OCONUS.

§ 302-2.11 May the 2-year time limitation for completing all aspects of a relocation be extended?

Yes, the 2-year time limitation for completing all aspects of a relocation may be extended by your Agency for up to 2 additional years, but only if you have received an extension under § 302-11.22.

SERVICE AGREEMENTS

§ 302-2.12 What is a service agreement?

A service agreement is a written agreement between you and your agency, signed by you and an agency representative, stating that you will remain in the service of the Government for a period of time as specified in § 302-2.13, after you have relocated.

§ 302-2.13 Am I required to sign a service agreement when transferring within or outside the continental United States or performing renewal agreement travel and what is the minimum period of service?

Yes, you are required to sign a service agreement when transferring within or outside the continental United States or performing renewal agreement travel. The minimum periods of service are:

(a) Within the continental United States for a period of service of not less than 12 months following the effective date of your transfer;

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(b) Outside the continental United States for an agreed upon period of service of not more than 36 months or less than 12 months following the effective date of transfer;

(c) Department of Defense Overseas Dependent School System teachers for a period of not less than one school year as determined under chapter 25 of title 20, United States Code; and

(d) For renewal agreement travel a period of not less than 12 months from the date of return to the same or different overseas official station.

§ 302-2.14 Will I be penalized for violation of my service agreement?

Yes, if you violate a service agreement (other than for reasons beyond your control and which must be accepted by your agency), you will have incurred a debt due to the Government and you must reimburse all costs that your agency has paid towards your relocation expenses including withholding tax allowance (WTA) and relocation income tax (RIT) allowance.

§ 302-2.15 Must I provide my agency with my actual place of residence as soon as I accept a transfer/appointment OCONUS?

Yes, if you accept a transfer/appointment to an OCONUS location, you must immediately provide your agency with the information needed to determine your actual place of residence and to document it into your service agreement.

§ 302-2.16 Must I sign a service agreement for a “last move home” relocation?

No, you do not need to sign a service agreement for a “last move home” relocation.

§ 302-2.17 What happens if I fail to sign a service agreement?

If you fail to sign a service agreement, your agency will not pay for your relocation expenses.

§ 302-2.18 Can my service agreement be voided by a subsequent service agreement?

No, service agreements which are already in effect cannot be voided by subsequent service agreements.

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§ 302-2.19 If I have more than one service agreement, must I adhere to each agreement separately?

Yes, service agreements can not be grouped together and must be adhered to separately. Each agreement is in effect for the period specified in the agreement.

ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS

§ 302-2.20 May I receive an advance of funds for my travel and transportation expenses?

Yes, you may receive an advance of funds for your travel and transportation expenses, as prescribed by your agency, except for overseas tour renewal agreement travel.

§ 302-2.21 What requirements must I meet to receive a travel advance?

Your relocation travel authorization must authorize you to receive a travel advance.

§ 302-2.22 May I receive a travel advance for separation relocation?

Yes, you may receive a travel advance if approved by your agency.

Subpart B—Agency Responsibilities

NOTE TO SUBPART B: Use of pronouns “we”, “you”, and their variants throughout this subpart refers to the agency.

§ 302-2.100 What internal policies must we establish before authorizing a relocation allowance?

Before authorizing a relocation allowance, you must set internal policies that determine:

- (a) How you will implement the governing policies throughout this part;
- (b) How you will determine when a relocation is in the best interest of the Government;
- (c) When you will allow a travel advance for relocation expenses;
- (d) Who will authorize and approve relocation travel;
- (e) Under what additional circumstances will you require an employee to sign a service agreement; and
- (f) Who is required to sign a service agreement.