

**ORDER**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

AL 3300.15B

ALASKAN REGION

April 21, 2004

**SUBJ:** ELIGIBILITY FOR ALLOWANCES UNDER PUBLIC LAW 79-600 (1946), AS AMENDED,  
(RETURN TO RESIDENCE)

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1. **PURPOSE.** This order explains requirements of separation travel and transportation benefits under Public Law 79-600 (1946), as amended, (Return to Residence), to comply with agency travel policies.
2. **DISTRIBUTION.** This directive is distributed to all supervisors in the Alaskan Region.
3. **CANCELLATION.** Order AL 3300.15A, Eligibility for Allowances Under Public Law 79-600 (1946), as amended, (Return to Residence), dated December 4, 1989, is canceled.
4. **EXPLANATION OF CHANGES.** This order brings the Alaskan Region into compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration Travel Policy (FAATP)
5. **BACKGROUND.** PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, provides for return of government employees from their overseas duty station to their home of record in the continental United States when the employee separates from Federal service. PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, covers employees who were transported from the continental United States to an overseas post of duty at government expense and perform one or more tours of duty under an employment agreement outside the continental United States. Covered employees are entitled to be returned to their home of record at government expense when they separate or retire.
6. **RESPONSIBILITIES.**
  - a. Employee. The employee (or separated employee) is responsible for keeping his/her division or staff office informed of his/her intent to travel after separation.
  - b. Division Managers/Staff Offices. Division managers/staff offices are delegated authority to:
    - (1) Sign travel orders for PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, travel and transportation after verification of entitlements by AAL-14, as documented in the remarks section of the separation SF-50, Notification for Personnel Action.
  - c. Human Resource Management Division (HRMD). The HRMD is responsible for:
    - (1) The initial determination and documentation of PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, entitlements.
    - (2) Informing employees and managers of PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, rules, regulations, and policies.
    - (3) Verifying the employee's PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, entitlement at the time of separation and documenting the entitlement in the remarks section of the SF-50 (see appendix 1).

7. **ELIGIBILITY.** To be eligible for PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, return travel and transportation to actual place of residence:

a. The employee must have been moved to Alaska at Government expense, and must have signed a transportation agreement at the time of appointment or transfer.

b. The employee must have satisfactorily completed the first tour of duty as agreed upon at the time of appointment or transfer to Alaska. The first tour of duty begins when the employee reports to his/her Alaskan post of duty, and ends upon completion of 36 months of duty in Alaska.

c. The return travel and transportation must begin before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> month after separation.

8. **PROCEDURES.** A separated eligible employee will receive an SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, documenting the PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, entitlement; a Statement of Intent (see appendix 2); and a memorandum from the Human Resource Management Division (see appendix 3) detailing the entitlements and procedure to follow. The employee's division will receive a copy of the SF-50. Essentially, the procedure includes the following:

a. Travel Imminent. PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, travel should begin as soon as possible, however, it must begin before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> month after separation.

(1) When an eligible separated employee decides to travel, he/she must request a travel order from his/her former division/staff office.

(2) The employee's former division/staff office will issue the separated employee a travel order authorizing PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, return travel and transportation. The travel order must be appropriately APPROVED before travel/transportation begins.

(3) When travel and transportation is completed, the separated employee shall submit a travel voucher (Form SF-1012) through his/her division/staff office for payment and reimbursement as applicable.

b. Delayed Travel. Normally, PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, travel and transportation is expected to begin as soon as possible after the effective date of separation.

(1) When return travel will be delayed beyond 180 days, the separated employee should notify his/her division manager/staff office (appendix 2).

(2) When a separated employee travels under PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, but delays the transportation of household goods (HHG's) and effects, requests for extensions are not required if the travel order states transportation of HHG's is delayed. The date in block 13 on the travel order is the controlling date for the transportation of HHG's.

NOTE: The date in block 18B of the travel order for completion of travel must not exceed 18 months from the effective date of the separation.

(3) In any event, the return travel and transportation MUST BEGIN BEFORE THE END OF THE 18<sup>th</sup> MONTH after the effective date of the separation. FAA has no authority to extend the entitlement beyond the 18<sup>th</sup> month after the effective date of separation.

**9. ALLOWANCES.**

a. An agency may pay one-way transportation expenses and shipment of HHG's for an employee and his/her immediate family from his/her post of duty in Alaska to the place of actual residence at the time of appointment or transfer to Alaska.

b. If an employee chooses to return to an alternate destination, the expenses shall not exceed those allowable for return over a usually traveled route between the post of duty and place of actual residence.

**10. PRIOR RETURN OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY.**

a. When an employee has become eligible (paragraph 5) for return transportation by satisfactorily completing an agreed period of service, the Government shall pay one-way transportation expenses for returning the employee's immediate family and HHG's prior to the employee's return to his actual place of residence.

b. One-way transportation expenses for return of the employee's immediate family for compassionate reasons and his/her HHG's also may be paid without regard to the employee's completion of an agreed period of service provided that the public interest requires the return of the immediate family for compelling personal reasons of a humanitarian or compassionate nature, which may involve physical or mental health, death of member of the immediate family, or obligations imposed by authority or circumstances over which the individual has no control.

c. In connection with the prior return of his/her family, the employee may elect to retain a portion of the HHG's with him/her at the post of duty and ship the remainder to his/her place of actual residence. In such instances, the Government will pay for shipment of both parts of the HHG's, provided the aggregate weight of both shipments does not exceed the applicable weight limits.

**11. LIMITATIONS.** The restrictions on travel and transportation entitlements are subject to the provisions outlined in current Federal Aviation Administration Travel Policy (FAATP), part 302-6.

a. The following relocation expenses are not authorized under PL 79-600 (1946), as amended, (return to residence after separation):

- (1) Real estate expenses.
- (2) Per diem for dependents.
- (3) House hunting trip.
- (4) Temporary quarters expenses.
- (5) Miscellaneous moving expenses.

b. If the husband and wife are both employed in the immediate geographic area by the same or different agencies, the allowances authorized shall apply only to one member; the other is eligible as a family member only.

**12. FAILURE TO COMPLETE THE FIRST TOUR OF DUTY.**

- a. If the employee fails to complete one year of the first tour of duty, the employee shall reimburse the Government for the costs incurred for transportation of the employee, his/her immediate family, household goods and personal effects from their actual home of record to their Alaskan post of duty.
- b. If the employee fails to complete the first tour of duty (36 months), the FAA will not pay any costs of the return transportation of the employee, his/her immediate family, household goods, or personal effects to his/her actual place of residence for separation unless he/she is separated for reasons which are beyond his/her control and acceptable to the agency (i.e., reduction-in-force when the employee is involuntarily separated, disability retirement, call to active duty in the military, or illness not induced by misconduct).

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