

Note — Be sure to consult Mission Management if you are unsure of the admissibility of any aspect of this travel benefit.

FSD 51 — Family Reunion

This provision attempts to minimize the separation caused when an employee accepts an assignment on an unaccompanied basis or, more commonly, where a dependant child is attending school away from the mission. The benefits offered are three return trips for children at a school up to secondary level where education expenses are being paid under FSD 34, or two trips for a dependant student at a post-secondary education institution per 12-month period (September 1 to August 31) between the location of your dependant(s) and your mission. Take note that no benefits are available in some situations and that the age of your child on September 1 of a given year may affect the number of travel entitlements in the following 12-month period. One of the family reunion trips must be undertaken during a student's long school holiday recess. There is also provision for family reunion travel for children of a previous marriage. Providing other parent has visiting privileges, entitlement is two trips per year. Please note that if child or other parent are not locate in H.Q. city a minus factor will apply.

There will, however, be rare instances where unusual circumstances at the mission are not conducive to children travelling to their parents' location. In such instances, your employer has the discretionary authority to approve travel to the child's place of residence for you and/or your spouse or for all of you to meet at a third location. When this happens, it is important to remember that your other dependant children lose one of their own travel entitlements. [See FSD 51.08 (f).]

Family Reunion provisions are administered by the SBM (Geographic Service Section) to whom proposals for travel must be submitted before authorization to purchase tickets may be obtained. Provision for telephone calls have now been included under FSD 51.12.

FSD 54 — Compassionate Travel

FSD 54 recognizes that situations of a compassionate nature may arise while you are outside Canada causing you to be exposed to costs over and above those incurred if you were residing in Canada. Depending on the location of your family and the nature of the emergency, it is important for you to realize that benefits may be limited and not applicable to all persons whom you may wish to be included. Please note that, with some exceptions a personal share must be paid if the family member is not located in the H.Q. city. You may wish to put aside a reserve fund to cover the cost of travel in the event of a situation not covered under FSD 54. Remember, also, that you may be able to trade in leave under FSD 45 or get travel assistance under FSD 50 or FSD 51 to ease your difficulty.

FSD 64 — Emergency Evacuation and Loss

FSD 64 is designed to provide for your evacuation, temporary living expenses, safeguard your possessions and compensate you for any resulting loss. There have been rare but highly publicized occasions where some or all of our employees and their dependants have had to get away from their mission on very short notice. The main cause of emergency evacuation has been a state of war or a level of hostilities considered dangerous to public safety. However, it is also possible that evacuation may be necessitated by natural acts such as earthquakes or flooding.

In general, instructions are similar to those contained in FSD 15 but special procedures and authorities are included to cover exceptional hardships. For example, you are deemed to be on temporary duty until you are resettled; you may be eligible for larger accountable advances and repayment of your posting loan may, at the request of the employee, be suspended. Repayments for a posting loan shall resume on your return to post, on cross-posting, or on assignment to duty in Canada, other than temporary duty. As in the case of claims for damage or loss following relocation, your inventory of personal effects is very important in order to obtain adequate compensation under this Directive. If your possessions are subsequently recovered, you will have to decide as to whether or not you wish them returned. Compensation may change depending on your decision and you may end up in a position of having to repay some money if you used your accountable advances to acquire replacement items and subsequently took possession of your original effects.