

Note Concerning Separated¹ Spouses

Where an employee's child resides with a spouse who has chosen not to accompany the employee to the mission, educational allowances or related expenses may not be paid under FSD 34 without special authorization from the Treasury Board. Assistance may be available under Family Separation Expenses (FSD 15.34). Employees in this situation are cautioned to approach SBM (Geographic Service Section) as soon as possible.

FSD 35 — Education Travel

FSD 35 is intended to pay the actual and reasonable costs of getting your child to and from his or her place of schooling when the normal Relocation Directive, FSD 15, or Family Reunion, FSD 51, do not apply. It is fairly straightforward and covers basically the same travel expenses as does FSD 15 with provision for an unaccompanied baggage allowance of 100 kilograms. Remember that a claim must be filed within 15 days of completing the journey.

One problem that does arise is the authorization for an escort to accompany the child at public expense. This is permissible in unusual circumstances, such as situations where educational facilities at the mission were incompatible and prior registration at the child's educational institution is not accepted and alternative arrangements cannot be made. Mitigating circumstances should be brought to the attention of SBM (Geographic Service Section) whose prior approval is required in all cases.

For information concerning relocation of a dependant student during the long school holiday recess refer to FSD 15.38 .

FSD 51 — Family Reunion

FSD 51 is intended to bring your dependants home to you at the mission up to three times a year. This Directive can be used in rare post-related circumstances for you and/or your spouse to travel to your child's location but special approval is required. Provision is also made for assistance for telephone calls from dependant children to the employee's mission (FSD 51.12).

Education Summary

The provisions of FSDs 34, 35 and 51 do not apply in all cases. This is particularly true where educational facilities at the mission are compatible but your child is in primary school in Canada, or either primary or secondary school at a third location. Check out your entitlements carefully!

1.4 Taking Elderly Parents on a Posting

The decision as to whether to take a parent or relative with you on posting requires careful thought and deliberation. Climate, culture, health risks, health facilities, language and available social networks need to be considered. For many frail older people, any move to a new environment can cause stress. A move to a foreign environment generally involves disruption of the lifestyle that was left behind in Canada and could lead to the parent feeling isolated in the new environment. Each case must be decided individually after weighing all the factors involved.

It should be noted that the employee who wishes to take an elderly parent on posting is required to consult the Department concerning the necessary requirements and procedures to have the parent designated as a dependant for the purposes of the Foreign Service Directives. The granting of dependency status for the elderly parent does not automatically permit him or her to accompany the employee on posting. The elderly parent dependant is subject to the same regulations under the FSDs as the employee, spouse and children. For example, medical clearance must be obtained before permission to travel to the mission is given.

¹ Legally separated or simply staying behind.