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home for the purpose of attending school, visiting, or like temporary purposes -- at the time of the transfer of the employee -- does not have the effect of removing such individuals from consideration as members of the employee's household." There is room for reasonable difference of opinion in making the administrative determination as to whether a given absence is "temporary" but, in the instant case, it is clear that the daughter was a member of H.'s household at any time that the mother was willing to relinquish custody and he was willing to accept it, that the initial step in this sequence of events was outside of his control, and that during the period involved he intended his daughter to be a member of his household subject only

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"When an employee acquires additional dependents (through birth, marriage, legal adoption, or changes in dependency) subsequent to the issuance of a travel authorization but before the expiration of the time limitation, travel expenses and per diem for such additional dependents shall be allowable under the travel authorization in the absence of any specifically stated limitation." (Emphasis supplied)

5. We perceive no difference in the situation as it actually developed, where the mother relinquished custody while in G-- and the child was brought from G-- to [] by the employee. It was throughout the intent of H. to accept custody of his daughter and to consider her as a member of his household whenever the mother relinquished custody which, while in G--, she finally did. The requisite change in dependency was effected, and section 7(a) of [] is applicable.

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6. Although the travel performed was between G-- and [] and the travel order authorized travel of the daughter from Kansas City to [] such variation is permissible under [] "Itinerary Changes", which permits variation in itinerary without amendment of the travel order provided only that the actual cost claimed shall not exceed the constructive cost authorized.

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7. That the daughter remained in [] only a month and was then returned to the mother in G--, at no expense to the Government, is irrelevant. It was H.'s stated intention throughout to keep the child in his household so long as he should remain [] The mother's determination that she desired to reassert her rights to custody was a matter as much out of H.'s control as though, for example, the child had become ill and required special medical service which could not be obtained in []

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8. It is the opinion of this Office that if the claim is otherwise in order, and if the proper administrative officials are satisfied of the accuracy of the facts as stated by H., there is no legal objection to its payment.

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General Counsel

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