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§ 302–12.102 What contracted relocation services may we provide at Government expense?

You may pay for contracted relocation services that are substitutes for reimbursable relocation allowances authorized throughout this chapter. For example, you may pay for homesale services as a substitute for residence sale expenses, or household goods management services as a substitute for transportation of household goods.

§ 302–12.103 May we separately contract for each type of relocation service?

Yes, you may separately contract for each type of relocation service or you may combine several types of relocation services in a single contract.

§ 302–12.104 What is the purpose of contracting for relocation services?

The purpose of contracting for relocation services is to improve the treatment of employees who are directed to relocate to facilitate the retention of a well-qualified workforce.

§ 302–12.105 Must we have a contract with a RSC that includes a comprehensive homesale program?

No, you are not required to have a contract that includes a comprehensive homesale program (which, for this purpose, is defined as a relocation program that includes a contract with a RSC that provides for buyer value option sales, amended sales, and appraised value purchases by the RSC). However, if you do not have such a program, you must examine and evaluate the objectives and relative costs of your relocation benefits and management processes at least once every two years to determine whether a comprehensive homesale program should be part of your relocation program.

[FTR Amdt. 2011–01, 76 FR 18343, Apr. 1, 2011]

§ 302–12.106 What rules must we follow when contracting for a comprehensive homesale program?

You must follow the rules contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) (48 CFR) and/or all other acquisition regulations applicable to your agency.

[FTR Amdt. 2011–01, 76 FR 18343, Apr. 1, 2011]

§ 302–12.107—302–12.108 [Reserved]

§ 302–12.109 May we require employees to participate in counseling before listing their homes?

Yes, you may require that employees participate in counseling before listing their homes, provided this is written into your agency's relocation policy. This is a common practice in the private sector. Please note, however, that this may exclude from your homesale program any employee who lists his/her home before the relocation travel authorization is approved. If you choose to make this part of your agency policy, you should make a major, ongoing effort to inform as many of your potential transferees as possible of this policy.

[FTR Amdt. 2011–01, 76 FR 18344, Apr. 1, 2011]

§ 302–12.110 [Reserved]

§ 302–12.111 May we require an employee to use a real estate broker specified by the RSC?

Yes, you may require, through your contract with the RSC, that every employee enrolled in the homesale program use a real estate broker specified by the RSC. This provision is not part of the standard terms for a homesale program, but it may provide a pricing advantage in negotiations with potential RSC, as well as an opportunity for better management of the homesale process.

[FTR Amdt. 2011–01, 76 FR 18344, Apr. 1, 2011]

§ 302–12.112 May we require an employee to use a mortgage service provider specified by the RSC?

No. Under the Real Estate Procedures Settlement Act (RESPA), you may not require that the employee obtain any mortgage from a lender specified by the RSC. The RSC may provide the employee access to multiple mortgage service providers as long as there is no use requirement, and the employee is provided a choice. Allowing the RSC to provide access to multiple providers is not part of the standard terms for a homesale program, but it