Rental Car

Summary/Purpose: Justification and use of rental cars while in travel status

The University will allow use of rental cars when there is a demonstrated cost saving over other modes of transportation and use of the rental car is not strictly for the traveler’s convenience. If an employee uses a rental car instead of a private vehicle for travel to their destination, state guidelines require documentation of the total rental expense compared to the total mileage expense from using a private vehicle. Reimbursement of the lesser expense shall be claimed on the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

Please remember than an intermediate size vehicle is normally the largest rental that will be reimbursed. Naturally, there will be occasions for which a larger vehicle will be required. A waiver request form should be submitted for approval to the Office of Procurement Services prior to making any reservations.

If a state travel agency is used to make rental car reservations with the rental agency, the state travel agency will send the traveler a confirmation of the reservation and the rate. Upon arriving at the destination if a more economical rate is found with another agency, that agency may be used without approval from the state travel agent. Make sure all charges that will be assessed by the other rental agency are known in order to determine which rate is actually the lowest. To document the lower rate when filing for reimbursement, attach the original confirmation from the state travel agent and the receipt for the actual car rental to the Travel Reimbursement Voucher.

In State and Out of State Rental Car Contracts
State car rental contracts are with Budget, USave, Enterprise and Hertz for rentals originating in state. The State car rental contracts are with Enterprise and Budget for out of state rentals. Enterprise is the Primary vendor and if there is not a vehicle available you may rent from Budget. The Mississippi corporate ID’s are listed on the contract for each rental type. These numbers should be used in order to obtain the unlimited mileage and the free Collision Damage Waiver/Loss Damage Waiver insurance coverage offered under the state contract.

Rental Car Contract Insurance
The current vehicle rental contracts include unlimited mileage and free CDW/LDW insurance. The option to purchase insurance should always be declined when a vehicle is rented utilizing the state contract. Insurance purchases will not be reimbursed as per the above information.

The following conditions justify use of rental cars:
- When the traveler reaches the destination by commercial carrier and several places within the area must be visited.
- When transportation between commercial carrier terminal and the hotel or meeting place is needed and a taxi or a limousine is not available.
- When a commercial carrier cannot meet the traveler’s schedule.

The following usage of a rental car will not be reimbursed:
• Rental of a vehicle for personal use, such as sightseeing.
• Optional travel to and from restaurants while on official state business.