Wisconsin Court System Travel and Expense Guidance Document Updated 6.1.2025

Purpose

This document outlines the policies and procedures for processing travel expenses for the Wisconsin Court System. The policies and procedures are established by the Uniform Travel Services Agreement under the State of Wisconsin Compensation Plan, State Statutes, Director of State Courts and Office of Management Services policy.

Policy

- The Wisconsin Court System requires a uniform record of all travel costs to conform to state travel policies and
 achieve equity in travel reimbursement to its employees and attached agencies. These rules and policies are
 based on the <u>Uniform Travel Schedule Amounts (UTSA)</u>, state statutes, and Wisconsin Court System policies.
 Travel reimbursement and related requested are subject to state audit and these policies are put in place to
 ensure the Wisconsin Court System meets the requirement for approvals of these expenses.
- 2. <u>STAR (PeopleSoft)</u> is the agency's system for processing all state employee and judicial officer and non-judicial staff travel expense vouchers. The employee creates an expense report in STAR, and it is approved by the employee's HR supervisor.
- 3. The specific job aid and more information on the travel policy is located in the Expense Job Aid.
- 4. Expenses claimed in the STAR Expense Module must be entered so managers reviewing the claim can determine whether they are in compliance with reimbursement rules. Please note that no more than two months' worth of expenses should be submitted on an expense report. Expenses incurred more than 60 days prior to submittal may be subject to taxation.
- 5. Employee travel expense reimbursements are paid through the payroll system on the employee's paycheck. Payment through the payroll system allows calculation of required withholdings for items that are considered taxable.
- 6. Reserve judges and individuals who are not Court System employees do not have their expenses processed through the STAR Expense Module. These individuals will claim expenses on a travel voucher form (CS-154). For non-employees, the expenses will be reimbursed via payment request (direct charge) in the STAR Accounts Payable Module.
- 7. Employees who knowingly falsify expense reports or do not adhere to the submittal requirements may be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal, pursuant the Section 14.7.1 and Section 14.8 of the Employee Handbook and pursuant to the Employee Manual and ss. 16.53(1)(c), 939.50(3) and 946.12(4), Wis. Stats.

Role Definitions

User Role Name	Role Description
Expense Employee	Enters/modifies expense reports
Assigned Proxy	Enters/modifies expense reports on behalf of another employee
Expense Approver	Audits and approves expense reports

Business Process

Employee

- 1. Employee creates expense report in STAR.
 - A. A separate travel reimbursement expense voucher is needed for each business purpose that the employee had during the claim period.
 - B. Refer to the <u>Expense Type Requirements</u> section for information on what is required for each expense type. <u>Please note</u>, certain judicial travel requires prior written approval by the Director of State Courts. For judges, please refer to Administrative <u>Bulletin</u> 18-03.
 - C. Consult with fiscal staff (<u>fiscal.office@wicourts.gov</u>) if accounting fields are blank or you get an error message.
- 2. Required receipts, agendas, and out of state authorizations (if applicable) must be scanned and attached/uploaded in STAR.

Employee HR Supervisor

- The employee HR supervisor will receive an email notification that an expense report is awaiting approval. If you are an elected official, your HR supervisor will be the Office of Management Services.
- 2. The supervisor is responsible for reviewing expense reports for:
 - A. Appropriateness and accuracy of the expense/travel
 - B. Attachment of original receipts

3. The employee HR supervisor may approve, send back, put on hold, or deny an expense report.

Approved: The expense report will move on to the pre-pay auditor.

Send Back: The expense report will be returned to the employee for correction. The supervisor will need to add a comment indicating what corrections need to be made.

Hold: The supervisor may resolve pending issues before approving.

Deny: The expense report will be closed. The employee will not be able to further modify the existing report and would need to create a new report for these expenses.

4. An employee HR supervisor who knowingly approves a falsified report or assists in the preparation of a falsified report may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Pre-pay Auditor (OMS)

- 1. The pre-pay auditor will receive an email notification that an expense report is awaiting approval.
- 2. The pre-pay auditor is responsible for reviewing expense reports for:
 - A Adherence to <u>Uniform Travel Schedule Amounts (UTSA)</u> guidelines, state statutes, and departmental guidelines
 - B Accuracy of chartfield values
 - C Receipt of required supporting documentation
 - D Attachments/receipt of the out of state authorization if required
- 3. The pre-pay auditor may approve, send back, put on hold, or deny an expense report. The pre-pay audit may add supporting documentation to the expense report that the employee has provided by email, or when it is otherwise available.

Individuals who are not courts employees, reserve judges, and intermittent workers

- Individuals who are not court employees, reserve judges and intermittent workers will complete a Travel Voucher form (CS-154) in order to receive payment of per diem and reimbursement of travel expenses for working assignments. This form must be signed and dated by the submitting requestor and approver. Original receipts will be attached as necessary. The request will be submitted to the program area approver.
- 2 Reserve judges are only eligible to submit per diem expenses when serving an appointment in a reserve judge capacity and pursuant to SCR 32.08. Reserve judges must complete form CS-154 for reimbursement of travel expenses for attending committee meetings, district meetings, or for reimbursement of travel expenses for attendance at judicial education programs.

- 3 The program area payment processor will send the travel expense report with attached receipts and documentation via email to payables@wicourts.gov.
- 4 OMS will process the payment request (direct charge) and payment will be issued to the traveler.
- 5 As permitted under Wis. Stats. 753.075 (3)(a), while serving outside the county in which they reside, temporary reserve judges shall also receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of judicial duties.

Mileage and Parking Reimbursement Rules

- 1. Travel Within the Headquarters City:
 - a. Non –Judges: Wis. Stats. 20.916 (9)(e) permit reimbursement for employees in their headquartered city for their actual, reasonable, and necessary expenses incurred in the discharge of official duties <u>only upon approval of an appointing authority</u>. The Wisconsin Court System will permit reimbursement for expenses in the headquartered city upon approval of a Deputy Director or the Director of State Courts. "Headquarters" is defined as the area with the municipality where an employee's permanent work site located and the area within a radius of 15 miles from that worksite. This does not apply to travel between an employee's residence and the city, village, or town in which the employee is headquartered, which shall not be reimbursable. For expenses in the headquartered city, the employee must attach a copy of the approval from the Deputy Director or Director of State Courts.

2. Travel Outside Your Headquarters City:

- a. If you must travel to a worksite removed from your assigned headquarters, you will be reimbursed the mileage from your home to the worksite or the mileage from your headquarters city to the worksite, whichever is closer. This includes any mileage incurred from your headquarters city to other municipalities in the same county.
- b. Per s. 753.19, Wis. Stats., judges (including reserve judges) are not eligible for state reimbursement for travel in the home county in which the judge is headquartered; however they are eligible for reimbursement for actual and necessary itemized expenses incurred in the discharge of judicial duty outside the county of residence, and in attending meetings of the judicial conference or the committees thereof, and as a judge designated to serve on the judicial administrative committee or the subcommittees thereof (s. 753.073, Wis. Stats.).
- c. Mileage from your home to your headquarters city is not eligible for reimbursement. Employees who are assigned to their home as their principle work location will not be eligible for reimbursement for mileage to their headquarters city.

Expense Type Requirements

Below is a detailed description of how and when to use each expense type when creating a travel expense report in STAR.

Not Listed Below: The business purpose is required for each expense claim. If a trip or event has multiple claims and one business purpose, the business purpose only needs to be recorded on the expense report once. The business purpose can be added in the description, expense line descriptions, or as an attachment.

Expense Types	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
ATM Fees	Must be obtained for business ex- pense and ap- proved by ap- pointing authority		• N/A	Original Receipt
Airfare	When flying com- mercially for busi- ness	Travel to and from locations	Ticket Number	Original Receipt or email confirmation
Airfare fee/ Baggage	When expense is incurred during air travel for business		• N/A	Original Receipt or email confirmation
Bottled Water	International travel only\$7.50 limit per day		• Location	• N/A
Bus	 When traveling between cities When traveling within HQ city via city bus 	Travel to and from	• N/A	Original Receipt unless Metro Bus
Bus. Supplies/ Purchase - Taxable	Supply purchases from out-of-state vendors. Contact OMS for eligibility.	Items purchased	• N/A	Original Receipt
Bus. Supplies/ Purchases	Supply purchases from in-state ven- dors.	Items purchased 5	• N/A	Original ReceiptPrior Authorization from OMS.

Expense Type	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
Damaged Personal Items	Contact OMS for eligibility		• N/A	Original Receipt (Max \$150)
Event Interview Expenses	Travel expenses related to applicant interviewees		• N/A	Pre-authorization from the Deputy Director for Management Services
Event-fees/ Refreshments	Extraordinary requests for event fees/refreshments outside of meal guidelines		• N/A	Pre-authorization from the Purchasing Officer, Deputy Director for Management Services, or Director of State Courts
Fax	Fax costs for busi- ness purposes in- curred while travel- ing	Travel Location	• N/A	Original Receipt
Fax - Taxable	Fax costs for busi- ness purposes in- curred while travel- ing	Travel Location	• N/A	Original Receipt
Fuel for Vehicle Use	Gas purchased by the employee for state vehicles when a fuel card is not available		• N/A	 Original Receipt Confirmation of vehicle rental with dates

Expense Type	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
Hired Moving Fees > CY17	Used for third- party movers as part of employment agreement.		• N/A	 Original Receipt Prior Authorization from Deputy Director of Management Services Copy of contractual agreement upon employment
Internet - Taxable	Home office use only	Service DatesHome Headquarters	• N/A	Original Receipt Prior Authorization from Deputy Director of Management Services
Job Education	Fees for job specific training		• N/A	RegistrationAgenda or syllabusOriginal Receipt
Laundry/ Pressing Charges	Employee must be in travel status for at least 3 concurrent days and is only allowed one charge per calendar week	Dates of travel	• N/A	Original Receipt
Lodging Gratuities	Up to \$2.00 per each night of stay	Dates of Stay	LocationNumber of Nights	If not claiming lodg- ing on expense Report, scan of hotel folio (bill).

Expense Type	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
Lodging in WI	\$98, except for Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha Counties, \$103.	Dates of Stay	LocationNumber of Nights	 Original receipt showing payment If conference, copy of agenda Justification for ex- ceeding maximum
Lodging Out- side WI	Refer to maximum rates in State of Wisconsin Bulletin	• Dates of Stay	 Location Number of Nights 	 Original receipt showing payment If conference, copy of agenda Out of State Travel Authorization documentation Justification for exceeding maximum
Meals Bagged	\$5 flat rate for each bagged meal	Work Hours	• Location	• N/A
Meals Bagged Overnight	\$5 flat rate for each bagged meal	Work Hours	• Location	• N/A
Meals In-State No Overnight	 15 miles away from HQ city Meals incurred during business trips 	Departure timeReturn time	• Location	• N/A
Meals In-State Overnight	 15 miles away from HQ city Meals incurred during business trips 	Departure timeReturn time	• Location	• N/A
Meals International	Meals incurred during business trips	Departure timeReturn time	• Location	Out-of-State Authorization
Meals Out-of- State No Overnight	 15 miles away from HQ city Meals incurred during business trips 	Departure timeReturn time	• Location	Out-of-State Authorization

Expense Type	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
Meals Out-of- State Overnight	 15 miles away from HQ city Meals incurred dur- ing business trips 	Departure timeReturn time	• Location	Out-of-State Authorization
Mileage Car (Mileage is audited using Google Maps)	 Mileage incurred in personal vehicle Madison HQ employees: mileage 99 and under round trip 	 Home Address (if left from or returned to) HQ Address (first line only) Destination Address 	 Originating Location Destination Location Miles 	 N/A Non-judicial employees headquartered in Dane County must include information indicating a fleet vehicle was unavailable.
Mileage Car (TD) (Mileage is audited using Google Maps)	 Mileage incurred in personal vehicle Madison HQ employees: mileage 100 and up round trip Turn-down Rate 	 Home Address (if left from or returned to) HQ Address (first line only) Destination Address 	 Originating Location Destination Location Miles 	Non-judicial employees headquartered in Dane County are required to use the TD rate if they have elected not to use a fleet car.
Mileage Handicap Van (Mileage is audited using Google Maps)	Physical disabilities that prohibit use of standard fleet vehi- cle	·	Originating LocationDestination LocationMiles	 Correspondence/ Memorandum issued by OMS ADA form
Mileage Motorcycle (Mileage is audited using Google Maps)	Mileage incurred on personal vehicle	 Home Address (if left from or returned to) HQ Address (first line only) Destination Address 	Originating LocationDestination LocationMiles	• N/A
Misc. Travel Supplier Fees	When travel ar- rangements change outside of the em- ployees control	Description of ar- rangement changes	• Location	Original Receipt

Moving Stipend - Taxable	Household trans- portation and relat- ed costs	Dates of transfer or hireDates of move	• Location	Invoice Copy of contractual agreement
				 1-2 estimates Prior Authorization from Deputy for Management Services

Expense Type	When	Description Field	Additional Fields	Supporting
Expense Type	Applicable	(Required)	Additional Fields	Documentation
Parking	Parking expenses associated with business travel, including valet parking in lieu of self-park		• N/A	Original receipts for total single parking expense over \$25.
Passport/VISA	Passport/Visa fees incurred for official state business	Dates of impending trip	• N/A	 Original receipts for expense over \$25 Written justification if expedition fees
Phone for Business Use	Business phone calls only while in the field		• N/A	Original receipt for expense over \$5 per Call
Phone for Business Use - Taxable	Business phone calls only while in the field		• N/A	Original receipt for expense over \$5 per call
Phone International	Business phone calls only while in the field		• N/A	Original receipt for expense over \$10 per day
Porterage Fee	Porterage fees in- curred for buses and airports (\$1 per piece of luggage)		• N/A	• N/A
Postage/ Mailing Fees	When mailing busi- ness related mate- rial via carrier ser- vice		• N/A	Original Receipt
Registration Fee	Registration fees for work related events	Date of event/s	• N/A	• All

Expense Type	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
Self-Moving Fees > CY17	Household trans- portation and relat- ed costs		• N/A	 Invoice Copy of contractual agreement 1-2 estimates Prior Authorization from Deputy for Management Services
Special Mode Transportation	Transportation for specialized field trips and other situations where traditional modes of transportation are not available	Dates of use of spe- cial mode transporta- tion	• N/A	 Original Receipt and/or list of actual out-of-pocket ex- penses Explanation of the circumstances
Tax Penalty	 When incurred expenses are originally submitted > 60 days Use in conjunction with Tax Penalty Correction line 	Please type "tax pen- alty" into the descrip- tion field		• N/A
Tax Penalty Correction	 When incurred expenses are originally submitted > 60 days Use in conjunction with Tax Penalty line 	Please type "tax pen- alty correction" into the description field	• N/A	• N/A
Taxi/Shuttle	Taxi or shuttle used for state busi- ness	Originating locationDestination location	• N/A	Original receipt re- quired over \$25 for one way fare includ- ing tip
Temporary Lodging	Refer to Office of Management Services for direction		LocationNumber of Nights	 Original Receipt Prior Authorization from designated courts official.

Expense Type	When Applicable	Description Field (Required)	Additional Fields	Supporting Documentation
Train	Toll fees incurred when traveling for state business Travel via train	 Originating Location Destination Location Originating Location 	• N/A	Original Receipt over \$25 For travel in personal vehicle for which a toll pass is available, toll pass statement of charges incurred. Original Receipt
irain	limited to coach if available for state business	Destination Location	- 1970	o original receipt
Travel Incidentals	When travel ar- rangements change outside of the em- ployees control		• N/A	Original Receipt
Vehicle Rental	When most cost efficient mode transportation for state business	Originating LocationDestination Location	Merchant Type Rental Company Name	Original ReceiptRental Agreement

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is my business unit highlighted in red?

When the business unit is highlighted in red, this means there is a chartfield coding error in Accounting Details. Please verify the proper coding strings are being utilized. Refer to the <u>fiscal</u> <u>office</u> if you're unsure of which coding to use.

What budget reference should I use?

Always use the current fiscal year's budget reference. Each fiscal year begins on July 1st. Please watch for posted deadlines during the transition between fiscal years.

Should I change the account codes in the Accounting Details?

No. After choosing your expense type DO NOT change the account code that defaults into your chartfield. The default account code is correct.

<u>Can I put another employee's expense on my expense report?</u> No. All employees must submit their own expense reports.

Do I need to provide detailed addresses for mileage trips that include multiple stops?

Only municipalities with an area over 30 square miles require a full address. (Refer to list below)

Caledonia, WI	Janesville, WI	Muskego, WI
Eau Claire, WI	Kronenwetter, WI	New Berlin, WI
Fitchburg, WI	Madison, WI	Pleasant Prairie, WI
Franklin, WI	Menomonee Falls, WI	Reserve, WI
Germantown, WI	Mequon, WI	Richfield, WI
Green Bay, WI	Milwaukee, Wi	Suamico, WI
Hobart, WI	Mount Pleasant, WI	Superior, WI

All other stops only require a city and state name.

When an expense report is sent back, the expense approver creates a comment with the necessary edits. To access this, the employee must click into the Expense Details hyperlink in the upper right hand of the expense report, and the comments will show up in red.

Why was my expense report returned?

When an expense report is sent back, the expense approver creates a comment with the necessary edits. To access this, the employee must click into the Expense Details hyperlink in the upper right hand of the expense report, and the comments will show up in red.

Why didn't I receive an email that my expense report was returned?

The most likely cause for this is that the employee does not have an email listed in their STAR profile. Employees should contact payrolloffice@wicourts.gov to have a valid email address added to their profile.

Can I submit expense reports on behalf of another employee?

No.

My lodging in Wisconsin did not honor the state rate, how much can I get reimbursed?

Employees are reimbursed for the state rate. Employees must justify requests for amounts over the limit by using the Authorized Amount Exceeded Comment and adding a note explaining why. For longer explanations, please add justification in the Notes section of the Summary page of the expense report.

My lodging contact says they honor a "government" rate, but that rate is different than the one listed in the UTSA, how much can I get reimbursed?

Employees are reimbursed for the state rate. When lodging establishments refer to a government rate, they are usually referring to the federal reimbursement rates. Please verify with the establishment what the rates are that they are honoring. If they are not willing to honor the state's lodging rate, please contact fiscal.office@wicourts.gov.

What is the lodging reimbursement rate for travel to high cost out-of-state cities?

Please contact the accounting associate or Deputy Director for Management Services in the Office of Management Services. The schedule for high cost cities is established by the Department of Administration. https://dpm.wi.gov/Bulletins/DPM-0633-CC-TSA.pdf

Do I attach my documentation, agendas, receipts, etc. to the expense report in STAR? Yes.

Receipts, documentation and agendas should be attached.

Can I use a credit card statement as proof of receipt?

No.

How do I print out a copy of my expense report?

In the View function, look for the printer icon and click the *View Printable Version* hyperlink. On the next screen, click the *Print Expense Report* hyperlink. Print from there.

How often should I submit my expense reports?

Expenses should be submitted no later than 60 days after the date they were incurred. Expenses submitted past 60 days are subject to IRS Tax Penalty.

What should I put in the report description field?

The report description should always be your dates of travel. You should include the departure and arrival times in your description.

<u>Do I need additional approval for travel within my headquarter city or when I am requesting reimbursement for expenses that do not meet the uniform travel guidelines?</u>

Documentation of approval by the Director of State Courts is required for any travel or reimbursement that is outside the uniform travel guidelines. Attach to the expense report the email or form that include an authorization by the Director.

When do I need to add tax penalty lines?

Tax penalty lines must be added for certain expenses that are originally submitted more than 60 days after they were incurred by the traveler.

If my expense report becomes over 60 days old because of a delay due to approvals, corrections, or resubmission, am I expected to add the tax penalty lines?

No. The 60 days for the tax penalty rule is calculated from the traveler's original submission date. Subsequent resubmissions or delays in approval will not affect the 60 day rule.