

**TRAVEL/MEAL POLICY**  
**Revised 4/27/23**  
**Motions 2023-M-098, 2023-M-099, 2023-M-100**

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to reimburse Tuscola County officials and employees for travel expenses incurred as a result of their official duties at rates established by the Board of Commissioners and in accordance with the specific provisions enumerated herein.

The policy shall apply to all officials and employees who by the nature of their assigned responsibilities, or because of special circumstances, are required by the County to use their privately-owned vehicle for travel and/or perform functions at a location other than their normal work location.

**2. POLICY**

2.1 Mileage. Mileage will be paid at the rate established by the Board of Commissioners to those officials and employees required to use their privately owned vehicle in conducting County business. The rate may be updated each year based on the Internal Revenue Service rate. The Board may choose to not increase the rate or fully/partially increase the rate to the IRS rate.

2.1.1 When traveling to out-of-county activities, transportation must be shared whenever possible. Economical use of County funds has priority over personal convenience or preference.

2.1.2 All mileage shall be computed from the normal work location to the destination point and return except in the following situations:

2.1.2.1 Mileage will be computed from residence to destination if actual departure is from the residence and if the distance is less than the distance from work location to destination.

2.1.2.2 If the distance is greater from the residence, the employee may still leave from there, but mileage will be calculated from the work location to destination.

2.1.2.3 Under no circumstances is mileage allowed between residence and normal work location.

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- 2.2 Meals. Effective May 1, 2023 the standard meal rate of \$54.00 per day will be paid except when traveling to these certain metropolitan areas: All of Wayne and Oakland Counties, Ann Arbor, Auburn Hills, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Holland, Mackinac Island, Petoskey Pontiac, South Haven, Traverse City, and Leland. When traveling to these areas the standard meal rate of \$67.50 per day will be paid effective May 1, 2023.
  - 2.2.1 Official travel, which takes the individual outside the boundaries of Tuscola County during the entire mealtime hours, will render eligibility for a per diem meal allowance, based on when the employee was required to leave and return. Meal allowances are not cumulative from meal to meal or day to day. The Controller's Office shall publish from time to time the approved rates.
  - 2.2.2 If all three meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) are provided by the conference or training session, then the employee is not eligible for a daily meal reimbursement from the County.
  - 2.2.3 Alcoholic beverages are not eligible for reimbursement from the County.
  - 2.2.4 Tips are limited to 20% of the total meal cost.
  - 2.2.5 Delivery fees of up to \$10.00 are eligible for reimbursement from the County, where deemed appropriate by the Department Head.
- 2.3 Accommodations. Reimbursement may be made for actual expenditures for overnight accommodations subject to the following restrictions and limitations:
  - 2.3.1 Overnight lodging expenses for County business will only be reimbursed if said event is 60 miles or more from the County complex in Caro, unless prior approval is obtained by the Board of Commissioners.
  - 2.3.2 Reimbursement is limited to the cost of a single room at prevailing rates for accommodations normally used in business; however:
    - 2.3.2.1 Double accommodation may be utilized when appropriate.
    - 2.3.2.2 If a "double" is shared with a County Official or Employee, each may claim reimbursement for one-half (1/2) of the rate.

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2.3.2.3 If the cost of a “double” is shared with a non-county employee, reimbursement may be claimed for the actual expenditure or an amount equal to the rate for a single occupancy accommodation, whichever is less.

2.4 Budget for Travel Related Expenses. Expenses associated with attendance at meetings, conferences, and seminars shall be requested by the Department Head during the preparation of the annual budget

2.4.1 A written request for all out-of-state travel must be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval prior to attending. Out-of-state travel expenses incurred by Juvenile Probation employees to visit a juvenile placed out-of-state will not require prior Board of Commissioner approval; but approval by the Chief Judge and Court Administrator is required.

2.4.2 Travel within the State requiring overnight stay will be allowed subject to approval of the Department Head and to availability of funds within the department budget. No additional funds will be transferred to the travel account after adoption of the budget, unless approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

2.4.3 Travel within the State of Michigan for the purpose of transacting County business, i.e., meeting with State Officials or to discuss common concerns with other governmental officials will be allowed subject to approval of the responsible Department Head or Elected Official and no overnight stay is required.

2.5 Violation of Policy. If there is any infraction of this policy, reimbursement from the employee will be required.

2.6 Preparation of the Travel Expense Voucher. The County Travel Expense Voucher must be completed within 30 Days after the conclusion of the event. Receipts must be attached to the travel voucher, copies will not be permitted. The receipt should have an itemized breakdown of all purchases at the dining establishments in order to receive reimbursement.