



# LEGAL BRIEF

## RENTAL CARS & LIABILITY

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PREPARED BY

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### **RENTAL CARS & LIABILITY**

- If you rent a car while not on official orders, you are on your own. Check with your insurance carrier to ensure that your insurance will cover your rental.
- If the rental car is authorized on official orders, it is mandatory policy that a traveler uses an available Commercial Travel Office (CTO) or Travel Management Center (TMC) which includes the Defense Travel System (DTS) or E-Gov Travel System Services (ETS) to obtain a rental vehicle. The lowest cost rental service that meets the mission transportation requirement must be selected for commercially rented vehicles.
- Use of a company and rental car location participating in the Defense Traffic Management Office's (DTMO) rental car agreement is encouraged because its government rate includes full liability and vehicle loss and damage insurance coverage for the traveler and the government. A vehicle offered by a participating vendor, but not listed under the agreement, is not covered under the agreement. The specific vehicle does not have the full liability and vehicle loss and damage insurance coverage and should not be rented for official government travel unless a similar vehicle is not otherwise available. To view DTMO approved rental car companies and rates, visit: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/rentalCar.cfm>.
- Avoid these acts—you will lose the insurance and may be liable for damages:
  - Obtaining the vehicle through fraud or misrepresentation
  - Driving the rental vehicle under the influence of alcohol;
  - Off-road driving;
  - Operation of the vehicle in a test, race, or contest
  - Driving the rental vehicle for hire;
  - Gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.
- If you are in an accident, you should
  - Call the police—an accident report is an imperative to settle potential claims against the driver or the Air Force.
  - Do not make admissions to the other drivers—tell the police what happened.

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