



## Department of the Air Force Reimbursement for State Re-Licensure and Re-Certification for Dependent Spouses Frequently Asked Questions

Current as of 15 Aug 2022

### **Q1: Who is eligible for this program?**

**A1:** This is a Total Force program, so any Regular Air Force, Space Force Guardians, Air Force Reserve (AFR), or Air National Guard (ANG) Airmen with qualifying PCS / PCA orders may be eligible, providing the situation meets the criteria established in the policy.

### **Q2: Would members joining the Air Reserve Component (ARC) - ANG or AFR from Active Duty via the Palace Chase or Palace Front Programs be eligible if they are entitled to PCS entitlements when leaving Active Duty?**

**A2:** Members joining the ARC from Active Duty via the Palace Chase would be eligible if they are entitled to PCS entitlements when leaving Active Duty. Usually they are entitled to PCS to their Home of Record (HOR) or Place Listed Entry on Active Duty (PLEAD) or their choice of locations up to what the reimbursement would be for returning to their PLEAD.

### **Q3: What is the eligibility criteria for a qualifying PCS or PCA?**

**A3:** The following criteria must be met to be considered a qualifying PCS / PCA:

- The Airman / Guardian's Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or Permanent Change of Assignment (PCA) authenticated orders must authorize movement of the Airman / Guardian's dependents at government's expense.
- The Airman / Guardian is reassigned, as either a PCS or PCA from a previous duty station to a location where the spouse must secure a license or certification for the same profession in a different location with different licensing authority and requirements (including Hawaii; Alaska; Washington, DC; and the U.S. territories); or upon returning to the United States from an overseas assignment (see Question 11 below for information on overseas assignments).
- Reimbursement is not authorized for moves upon accession, Career Intermission Program (CIP), retirement, or separation from the armed forces.
- Qualifying re-licensing costs must be incurred and paid after the date the member's PCS / PCA orders are authenticated and within 24 months of the date the member's PCS / PCA orders are authenticated.
- Reimbursement for each qualifying PCS / PCA will not exceed \$1,000 for PCS / PCA orders authenticated on or after 20 December 2019.

### **Q4: Do Air National Guard members with qualifying PCS / PCA orders (T10, T32, or ADOS tour) qualify for this program?**

**A4:** Members required to PCS / PCA to another state would qualify if their situation meets the criteria established in the policy. Normally, this would be training (greater than 139 days) or for mission location (greater than 180 days at one location).

### **Q5: What is a "qualified" re-licensing cost?**

**A5:** For the purposes of this policy, "qualified re-licensing costs" mean costs including exam, continuing education courses, and registration fees imposed by the state of the new duty station to secure a license or certification to engage in the *same* profession in which the spouse engaged while in the previous duty station.



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### **Q6: Which licenses / certifications qualify for this program?**

**A6:** License / certification requirements vary by state; however, some examples include but are not limited to teaching, cosmetology, real estate, or nursing. Learn more about licensing and certifications from your installation Military & Family Readiness Center, the Department of Labor (DOL) website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/veterans/military-spouses>, and the DoD Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) Program at <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>.

### **Q7: What if my spouse's qualifying relicensing fees only add up to \$300? Will we receive the full \$1,000?**

**A7:** You can be reimbursed up to \$1,000 for qualifying re-licensing costs; in this scenario, you can be reimbursed \$300.

### **Q8: How many times can we apply for this program?**

**A8:** This is not a one-time program. Airman / Guardians may seek reimbursement for each qualifying PCS / PCA, providing the circumstances meet the criteria specified in the policy.

### **Q9: When can I apply for this increased reimbursement?**

**A9:** Any PCS / PCA order authenticated on or after 20 December 2019 qualifies for reimbursement re-licensure/re-certification up to \$1,000 threshold. Airman / Guardians who meet the rest of the eligibility criteria during this timeframe may apply for reimbursement.

### **Q10: How do I apply for reimbursement?**

**A10:** Your servicing finance office will process your reimbursement application. The Claimant (Service Member) files an *OF 1164, Claim for Reimbursement for Expenditures on Official Business*, with a copy of the applicable PCS / PCA orders, a copy of the spouse's state occupational license or certificate from the previous duty station, a copy of the license or certificate from the new duty station, and the paid receipts for items required to obtain re-licensing or re-certification from the new duty station to their servicing finance office.

### **Q11: I'm retiring soon and will be relocating to my hometown of Ruthville, North Dakota which is 5 miles from Minot AFB, North Dakota. My spouse wants to update his accountant certification – do I qualify for this program?**

**A11:** This program is not authorized for moves upon accession, the CIP, separation, or retirement.

### **Q12: I'm PCSing from Aviano AB, Italy to Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, TX. My spouse recently completed nursing school and wants to obtain a nursing license in Texas – do I qualify for this program?**

**A12:** This program does not reimburse costs for obtaining licenses for a new profession, it provides reimbursement costs associated with *re-licensing*. However, there are other programs that may assist in your situation. Learn more about licensing and certifications from your installation Military & Family Readiness Center, the DOL website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets/veterans/military-spouses>, and the DoD SECO Program. The SECO Program also provides a variety of free, industry-specific career coaching packages for military spouses through <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil> and also available by calling 1-800-342-9647.



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**Q13: I'm PCSing from Ramstein AB, Germany to Cannon AFB, New Mexico. Before Ramstein, we were stationed at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, where my spouse was a teacher. My spouse wants to update her Louisiana teaching certificate to New Mexico – do I qualify for this program?**

**A13:** A PCS returning from an overseas assignment is eligible for reimbursement provided your spouse has a license / certificate from a previous duty location held prior to the overseas assignment.

**Q14: I'm PCSing to Kunsan for a 1-year unaccompanied (dependent-restricted) assignment. While I'm gone, my spouse is going to move to our hometown in Tennessee – do I qualify for this program?**

**A14:** This program is not intended for PCSs in which movement of dependents at government expense is not authorized. However, if you receive an approved accompanied follow-on assignment, you may be eligible for this program at the follow-on location after your PCS orders are issued.

**Q15: I'm PCSing from Wright-Patterson AFB, OH to Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, and movement of dependents at government expense is authorized. My spouse, who is a teacher, is going to move to her parents' home in Kentucky and teach there while I'm at ACSC. Since movement of dependents at government expense is authorized, do I qualify for this program?**

**A15:** Reimbursement of qualifying re-licensing/ re-certification costs apply to those costs imposed by the State of the *new duty station*, which in your situation is Alabama. You would qualify for this program only if your spouse updated her teaching license / certificate to the State of Alabama.

**Q16: I'm stationed at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and deploying on a 365-day extended deployment to Afghanistan. My spouse is a social worker, and wants to move to Texas with her sister while I'm deployed. While she is in Texas, my spouse wants to continue her career in social work, which would require her to update her social work license to the State of Texas – do I qualify for this program?**

**A16:** This program is intended for PCSs or PCAs in which movement of dependents at government expense is authorized. A 365-day deployment is considered a Temporary Duty (TDY); as such, you do not qualify for this program in this situation.

**Q17: I am PCSing from Hickam AFB, Hawaii to Little Rock AFB, Arkansas. My spouse is a member of the Air Force Reserve, and is an architect in the civilian sector. He wants to update his license in Arkansas – does he qualify for this program, even though he is in the military?**

**A17:** This program is intended to reimburse qualified re-licensing costs of the spouse of a member of the armed forces to include eligible AFR or ANG Airmen on Title 10 orders providing the situation meets the criteria established in the policy. In the situation described above, you are eligible for this program.

**Q18: If I am PCSing with my service member to their first duty assignment, am I eligible for reimbursement if I had a license or certification prior to the PCS?**

**A18:** Yes, if you are on the PCS orders and authorized movement by the government, you are eligible for the reimbursement. Even though the policy states you must have had the license or certification at a prior assignment, that criteria does not apply to a first duty station assignment.



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**Q19: Where can I find the policy for this program?**

**A19:** The policy for this program can be found in AFMAN 36-2102, 16 Dec 2020 which supersedes AFI 36-2102.

**Q20: What if I have other questions?**

**A20:** The following Points of Contact can help answer additional questions:

**Regular Air Force:** Program / Policy: Installation Military Personnel Flight. Claim submission: Installation Finance Office.

**Air Force Reserve:** Program / Policy: Air Force Directorate of Personnel, Force Support Division (AF/REPP). Claim submission: Installation Finance Office.

**Air National Guard:** Program / Policy: Military Personnel Flight or Military & Family Readiness Program Manager. Claim submission: Installation Finance Office.

**Resources and Referral:** Learn more about licensing and certifications from your installation Military & Family Readiness Center, the DOL website at: <https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses>, or the SECO website at: <https://myseco.militaryonesource.mil>