

Financial Support of Family Members in the Coast Guard

The Coast Guard expects all of its members to provide adequate support for their legal dependents and to comply with support requirements in separation agreements or court orders. Chapter 8.M of the Personnel Manual, Commandant Instruction M1000.6A, establishes the Coast Guard's support policies:

http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/directives/CIM/CIM_1000_6A.pdf . A member is obligated to provide spousal and child support even though the spouses are separated as long as they are still legally married. Paragraph 8.M.3.c. sets out support scales to be used when there is no court order or separation agreement. These amounts may be more or less than amounts set out in state support guidelines. For example, if a Coast Guard member has a spouse and one minor child, the Coast Guard support scales provide for payment of the difference between Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at the with and without dependents rate plus 25% of basic pay. (See ALDIST 176/99 below.) Although a member cannot be "ordered" to pay support, failure to do so may result in disciplinary or administrative action.

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COMDTNOTE 1000

SUBJ: SPOUSAL SUPPORT POLICY

A. COAST GUARD PERSONNEL MANUAL, COMDTINST M1000.6A

1. THIS ALDIST ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO THE SPOUSAL SUPPORT POLICY CONTAINED IN REF A. WHILE THE COAST GUARD WILL NOT ACT AS A COURT IN THE DOMESTIC LIVES OF ITS MEMBERS, COAST GUARD POLICY DOES REQUIRE ALL MEMBERS TO MEET THEIR DEPENDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. IN THE EVENT OF SEPARATION OR DIVORCE AND IN THE ABSENCE OF A COURT ORDER OR MUTUALLY AGREED UPON AMOUNT, THE MINIMUM LEVELS OF SUPPORT COAST GUARD MEMBERS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE DEPENDENTS ARE LISTED IN SECTION 8.M. OF REF A. THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE INTENDED TO BE ONLY AN INTERIM MEASURE. MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEEK A QUICK FINAL SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE EITHER BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED OR IN THE CIVIL COURT SYSTEM.

2. AMEND REF A AS FOLLOWS:

A. EFFECTIVE 01 JULY 1999, REPLACE THE SCALE IN ARTICLE 8.M.3.C.

WITH THE FOLLOWING:

(1) FOR SPOUSE ONLY - DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RATES FOR BAH WITH AND WITHOUT DEPENDENTS FOR THE MEMBER PLUS 20 PERCENT OF BASIC PAY.

(2) FOR SPOUSE AND ONE MINOR OR HANDICAPPED CHILD - DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RATES FOR BAH WITH AND WITHOUT DEPENDENTS FOR THE MEMBER PLUS 25 PERCENT OF BASIC PAY.

(3) FOR SPOUSE AND TWO OR MORE MINOR OR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN - DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RATES FOR BAH WITH AND WITHOUT DEPENDENTS FOR THE MEMBER PLUS 30 PERCENT OF BASIC PAY.

(4) FOR ONE MINOR OR HANDICAPPED CHILD - 16.7 PERCENT (1/6) OF BASIC PAY.

(5) FOR TWO MINOR OR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN - 25 PERCENT (1/4) OF BASIC PAY.

(6) FOR THREE OR MORE MINOR OR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN - 33 PERCENT (1/3) OF BASIC PAY.

B. ADD THE FOLLOWING TO ART 8.M.4.A.1.: "C. WAIVER OF SUPPORT OF SPOUSE MAY ALSO BE GRANTED IN CASES OF SPOUSAL ABUSE INFLICTED UPON THE MEMBER. WAIVER REQUESTS SUBMITTED ON THE GROUNDS OF ABUSE MUST BE CORROBORATED BY EVIDENCE INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF DOCUMENTS: MEDICAL REPORTS, POLICE REPORTS, AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES, CHAPLAINS, COUNSELORS OR SOCIAL WORKERS."

3. MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT THE SCALE CONTAINED IN PARA 2.A ABOVE IS EFFECTIVE ONLY IN THE ABSENCE OF A COURT ORDER OR MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THEIR SPOUSE. MEMBERS AFFECTED BY THIS CHANGE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ADVISE THEIR DEPENDENT OF THE CHANGE PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVE DATE LISTED.

4. THIS POLICY WILL BE REFLECTED IN A FUTURE CHANGE TO REF A.

5. INTERNET RELEASE AUTH.

6. MR. THOMAS F. FISHER, ACTING DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, SENDS.

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