



MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSE RECOGNITION FAQs

Compared to civilians, military spouses are 10 times more likely to have moved to a new state in the last year due to military relocation. For those who work in licensed occupations it can be time-consuming and costly to obtain licensure in a new state. In recent years, most states have passed laws creating streamlined license recognition options for military spouses. One of the best ways to support military spouses is to be knowledgeable about these options and the resources available to them.

These FAQs can be used by career services staff and American Job Center partners when working with a military spouse seeking license recognition. Information is included for the top ten states with the highest concentration of military spouses. Each state entry includes the applicable license recognition laws, links for state-specific information, relevant interstate licensing agreements, and information about accommodations for military spouse attorneys. Please note that state information is constantly evolving as new laws are passed and is subject to change. The date of the latest update is in the bottom left corner of each page.

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CALIFORNIA

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>Ann.Cal.Bus. & Prof.Code § 115.6 states that CA state agencies shall issue expedited licenses to military spouses and shall issue temporary licenses, but this state’s law only applies to registered nurses, vocational nurses, psychiatric technicians, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, veterinarians, and all licensees of the state Medical Board and the Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists. To view the full text of the law, visit: https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/CALIFORNIA.pdf.</p>	<p>California’s Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has a webpage for military personnel and their spouses that explains licensing recognition options.</p> <p>Teaching and other educator-related credentials are overseen by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC).</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>No. The State Bar of California does not currently provide licensing accommodations for military spouses.</p>



COLORADO

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>Colorado Law C.R.S.A. § 12-71-101 to 103 § 12-71-101 states that CO state agencies shall recognize an out-of-state license for the first year of residency, but this state’s law does not apply to engineers, surveyors, architects, select medical practitioners, optometrists, or those in the field of real estate. To view the full text of the law, visit: https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/COLORADO.pdf.</p>	<p>Colorado’s Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>The Educator Talent Licensing Office of the Colorado Department of Education issues a one-year initial/interim license to qualifying educators (teachers, special services providers, principals, administrators) transferring from another state due to military relocation.</p>	<p>Yes. CO participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact; the Recognition of EMS Personnel Interstate Compact; the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact; and the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. Rule 204.4 permits an attorney in good standing in another jurisdiction, who is a legally recognized domestic partner following a service member to the state on active duty orders, to be admitted in Colorado without taking a bar examination. For more information, see: http://www.coloradosupremecourt.com/Future%20Lawyers/MilitarySpouse.asp.</p>



FLORIDA

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>F.S.A. § 455.02 455.02 states that State agencies shall issue licenses to military spouses, and health-care practitioners may also be issued temporary licenses. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/FLORIDA.pdf.</p>	<p>Florida’s Department of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>Florida’s Department of Education has specific processes for fee waivers, extensions, and certifications for military spouses. Florida also participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p> <p>Florida’s Department of Health has a dedicated page for military personnel and spouses.</p>	<p>Yes. FL participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. In the Rules regulating the Florida Bar (“Chapter 21”), the Supreme Court of Florida may certify a lawyer who is the spouse of a full-time active duty member of the United States Armed Forces to practice law in Florida while the lawyer’s spouse is stationed within Florida. For more information, see https://www.floridabarexam.org/web/website.nsf/search.xsp?q=chapter%2021.</p>



GEORGIA

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>Ga. Code Ann., § 43-1-34 states each agency shall implement a process by which military spouses may qualify for temporary licenses, licenses by endorsement, expedited licenses, or a combination thereof. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/GEORGIA.pdf.</p>	<p>The Georgia Secretary of State’s Professional Licensing Boards Division (PLBD) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>Georgia’s Department of Community Health Board of Dentistry Rule 150-7-.06 indicates that a military spouse qualifies for expedited application review once the applicant has submitted a completed application.</p> <p>The Georgia Professional Standards Commission provides information for military spouses seeking educator certification. Georgia also participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p>	<p>Yes. FL participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact and the Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. The Supreme Court of Georgia Board of Bar Examiners issued the Military Spouse JD Waiver Process and Policy which describes the process for military spouse attorneys to petition for a waiver of the existing rules for admission.</p>



HAWAII

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>Hawaii’s HRS § 436B-14.7 recognizes that State agencies shall issue endorsement/reciprocity licenses to military spouses and temporary licenses with expedited consideration. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/HAWAII.pdf.</p>	<p>Hawaii’s Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) Professional & Vocational Licensing Division (PVL) issued an announcement describing license recognition options.</p> <p>Teaching and other educator related credentials are overseen by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Hawaii participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Yes. The State Judiciary Hawaii Board of Examiners adopted Rule 1.17, which provides limited admission of United States Uniformed Services spouse-attorneys to the Bar of the State of Hawaii. Specific application information is available here.</p>



MARYLAND

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>MD Code, Business Regulation, § 2.5-105 states that State agencies shall issue expedited temporary licenses to military spouses. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/MARYLAND.pdf.</p>	<p>The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation’s (DLLR) Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>Health professional licensing boards, which includes dentists, physicians, nurses, social workers, and pharmacists, can be found here.</p> <p>The Maryland State Department of Education certifies educators for the state and provides information on expedited certification for military veterans and their spouses. Maryland also participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p>	<p>Yes. MD participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. Maryland Court of Appeals Rule 15.1 Special Authorization for Military Spouses allows for provisional licensing if the appropriate criteria are met.</p>



NORTH CAROLINA

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>N.C.G.S.A. § 93B-15.1. states that State agencies shall provide both licensure by endorsement and temporary licensure. To view the full text of the visit: https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf.</p>	<p>North Carolina’s Labor & Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) provides information on occupations requiring a license in North Carolina with a brief description of each license, contact information for its licensing authority, and information about related occupations. Most licensing boards have information for military spouses about how to access their license recognition options.</p> <p>The NC State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction oversees educator licensing in the state. North Carolina participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p>	<p>Yes. NC participates in the Nurse Licensure Compact and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. The Board of Law Examiners of the State of North Carolina's Rule .0503, Requirements for Military Spouse Comity Applicants, describes procedures for licensing without examination and reduced fees.</p>



TEXAS

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>V.T.C.A., Occupations Code § 55.005 states that State agencies shall, as soon as practicable, issue licenses to military spouses. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/TEXAS.pdf.</p>	<p>The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>Additional licensing boards that have specific sections for military spouses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Texas Board of Nursing • Texas State Board of Dental Examiners • Texas Education Agency (TEA). Texas also participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement. 	<p>Yes. TX participates in the Nursing Licensure Compact; the Recognition of EMS Personnel Interstate Compact; and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. The Texas Board of Law Examiners has adopted policy guidelines for consideration of problems faced by military spouse applicants and consideration of their practice time waiver requests.</p>



VIRGINIA

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>VA Code Ann. § 54.1-119 states that State agencies shall expedite the issuance of licenses to military spouses and shall issue temporary licenses. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/VIRGINIA.pdf.</p>	<p>Virginia’s Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) provides a license search function, as well as a directory of all licensing boards. DPOR has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>The Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>The Virginia Department of Education oversees licensing for education related careers. Virginia also participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p>	<p>Yes. VA participates in the Nurse Licensure Compact and the Recognition of EMS Personnel Interstate Compact.</p>	<p>Yes. The Virginia Board of Bar Examiners Rule 1A:8 addresses Military Spouse Provisional Admission. Application information can be found at http://barexam.virginia.gov/misc/other/mspa/mspa.html.</p>



WASHINGTON

What license recognition options for military spouses has the state codified in law?	Where can spouses find more information about the state’s offerings?	Does the state participate in any interstate licensing compacts?	Does the state provide any licensing accommodations for military spouse lawyers?
<p>RCWA 18.340.020 states that State agencies shall expedite the issuance of licenses to military spouses and shall issue temporary licenses. To view the full text of the law, visit https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/WASHINGTON.pdf.</p>	<p>The Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) has a webpage explaining license recognition options for military spouses.</p> <p>The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) oversees regulation of teachers and other education-related occupations. The OSPI website includes information for military spouses directing them to contact OSPI for expedited review of applications. Washington also participates in the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) Interstate Agreement.</p>	<p>Yes. WA participates in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.</p>	<p>No. The Washington State Bar Association does not currently provide accommodations for military spouses.</p>



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