



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

16 JAN 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2020-01 (Reimbursement for State Licensure and Certification Costs for the Spouse of a Soldier Arising From a Permanent Change of Station)

1. References:

a. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018, Public Law 115-91, section 556, 131 Stat. 1403–1405

b. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Public Law 116-92, section 577, 133 Stat. 1198

c. Army Directive 2019-18 (Reimbursement for State Licensure and Certification Costs for the Spouse of a Soldier Arising From a Permanent Change of Station), 1 May 2019, hereby rescinded

2. This directive establishes policy for the authorized reimbursement for State licensure and certification costs for a spouse of a Soldier pursuant to a permanent change of station (PCS) to another State.

3. This policy sets forth requirements to support spouse relocation and employment. Supporting Army spouses so they can continue their work in a new place of residence is important. Spouses in professionally licensed fields face challenges resulting from delays and the cost of transferring licenses to a new State. By mitigating these barriers, we will improve the quality of life for our Soldiers and Families and reduce the stressful impact that duty station reassignments can have on spouses' careers.

4. This directive is effective retroactively to the date of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (12 December 2017), and applies to the Regular Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.

5. The Army will reimburse a Soldier for qualified relicensing costs of the spouse when:

a. the Soldier is reassigned on PCS orders, from a duty station in one State to a duty station in another State; and

b. the movement of the Soldier's dependents is authorized at the expense of the United States as part of the reassignment.

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6. Reimbursement of qualified relicensing costs provided to a Soldier may not exceed the amount established by applicable law. The term “qualified relicensing costs” means:

a. costs, including exam and registration fees, imposed by the State of the new duty station to secure a license or certification to engage in the same profession the Soldier’s spouse engaged in while at the original duty station; and

b. costs paid or incurred by the Soldier or spouse to secure the license or certification from the State of the new duty station after the date on which the orders directing the reassignment are issued.

7. The spouse is not required to have held the license or certification in the immediately preceding duty station State. So long as the spouse, while married to the Soldier, held the license or certification at any prior duty station State, that prior duty station State will be considered the “original duty station” for purposes of this policy.

8. Responsibilities

a. The Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 will:

(1) Publish an all Army activities message, providing instructions for filing reimbursement through the PCS process.

(2) Ensure funding is available through the military pay and allowances account.

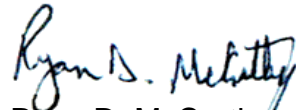
(3) Coordinate with the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs to develop strategic communications and top-line messaging for Families and key stakeholders.

b. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Military Personnel) will prepare a report to Congress on utilization rates no later than 1 year after this directive is signed.

9. Proponent. The Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) is the proponent for this policy. No reimbursement may be provided under this policy for qualified relicensing costs paid or incurred after the termination date established by law.

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10. Duration. This directive will be reissued as needed to continue the authorized reimbursements unless Congress makes the legislation permanent.



Ryan D. McCarthy

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