



Former Spouse ID Card and Medical Information

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Provided by

COMMANDING OFFICER (LGL)
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
PAY & PERSONNEL CENTER (PPC)
444 SE QUINCY STREET TOPEKA
KS 66683-3591

Telephone
1-785-339-3441
1-785-339-3788 (Fax)
E-Mail
PPC-DG-LGL@uscg.mil

Introduction

Following a divorce, some former military spouses may be entitled to benefits such as continued coverage options under TRICARE and other identification card privileges. If a former military spouse meets the criteria for the "20-20-20 rule" or the "20-20-15 rule", they may be eligible for benefits even though they are no longer considered a "dependent" or a "military spouse".

The 20-20-20 rule requires:

20 years of marriage AND

20 years of service creditable for retirement pay AND

20 years overlap of marriage during military service.

The 20-20-15 rule requires:

20 years of marriage AND

20 years of service creditable for retirement pay AND

15 but less than 20 years overlap of marriage during military service.

The former spouse entitled to privileges will receive them only if they do not remarry. A 20-20-20 unremarried former spouse is entitled to eligible benefits for life. A 20-20-15 unremarried former spouse will be entitled to eligible benefits for 1 year from the date of divorce. Once eligibility is determined, those eligible will receive a new official USID card as their own sponsor/DoD Designated Beneficiary (DB). For most former spouses, the most important of these benefits is the eligibility to continue using TRICARE.

Specific details are contained in the following pages. Please review them carefully and, if you believe you are eligible, contact us for more information.

Medical, Commissary and Exchange Privileges

Background The ID Card is the key for accessing your privileges. These benefits can include medical, commissary, exchange and theater privileges under Morale, Well-Being, and Recreation (MWR).

Minimum Eligibility requirements. Benefits are authorized only if **all three** of the following criteria are met:

1. The marriage lasted at least 20 years *and*
2. the member served at least 20 years service creditable for retired pay *and*
3. the marriage overlapped the service creditable for retired pay by 15 years or more.

Benefits Authorized The number of years the marriage overlapped the service creditable for retired pay determines the extent of the benefits as shown in the table below:

IF minimum eligibility requirements are met and ...	Then Under...	Privileges entitled to...
Marriage and service overlapped by at least 20 years	20-20-20 rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissary • Exchange • MWR • Medical coverage provided the former spouse does not have an employer sponsored health plan.
Divorced on or after 29 September 1988	20-20-15 rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical coverage is authorized for one year from the date of divorce then the former spouse is offered an option to choose a conversion policy. • There are no entitlements for Commissary, Exchange or MWR.

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Restrictions and Where to Apply

Restrictions

- All privileges are terminated if the former spouse remarries.
- TRICARE benefits terminate when a former spouse becomes eligible for Part A of Social Security Medicare benefits.

Where to apply

- All initial determinations regarding former spouses must be approved by their specific branch of service.
- Coast Guard must contact 1-785-339-3441
**No other Coast Guard units are authorized to make this determination.
- Public Health Services must contact 1-240-453-6038
**No other PHS unit is authorized to make this determination.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration must contact 1-301-628-0917 **No other NOAA unit is authorized to make this determination.
- Occasionally some required information may not be available. PPC may have to order the service member's record from the National Personnel Records Center. If a request for records is required, a delay of three months can be expected

How to apply for ID Card and Medical

1. Complete the enclosed Statement of Former Spouse (CG-2020C).
2. Complete the (DD Form 1172-2) linked here for Uniformed Services Identification Card, Blocks 1-20 pertain to the service member. Skip any information that you do not know. Blocks 44-57 pertain to you. Do NOT sign or notarize.
3. Enclose the following forms (translated if from a foreign country):
 - Certified copy of marriage certificate to former military spouse, or statement from appropriate state certifying common-law marriage.
 - Certified copy of divorce order/decreed from former military spouse.
 - Certified copy of divorce/annulment order/decreed from remarriage if applicable.
 - Copy of Social Security card.
 - Copy of a photo ID (identification card) issued by the federal or state government (e.g., Passport or driver license, but not military ID). Photo must be clear.
 - Verification of creditable service. Examples of creditable service documents for Active Duty and Retired Members include DD Form 214 or Statement of Creditable Service. For Reserve Retirement, a Points Statement.
 - If you are 65 or older or disabled, a certificate from Social Security Administration certifying whether you are eligible for Medicare Part A or a copy of your Medicare card.
4. Please scan and email all documentation, preferably in PDF format, to patricia.j.freeman@uscg.mil. If you are unable to scan or email, send the documents via mail to:

COMMANDING OFFICER (LGL)
COAST GUARD PAY & PERSONNEL CENTER
444 SE QUINCY STREET
TOPEKA KS 66683-3591

NOTE: Original documents will not be returned unless specifically requested and you send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

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Other Benefits

Conversion policy (CHCBP)

The conversion policy known as the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP) is available for the former spouse under the following eligibility requirements:

- For former spouses under the 20-20-15 rule divorced on or after 29 September 1988, within 60 days after expiration of the one year covered period, are eligible to elect transitional health coverage, at their cost, under CHCBP.
- Effective 1 October 1994, there is no minimum creditable service requirement for an unremarried former spouse. A former spouse must elect, within 60 days of divorce, health coverage, at a cost, under the CHCBP.

Additional information concerning CHCBP can be obtained by writing to or calling:

CHCBP ADMINISTRATOR
HUMANA MILITARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES INC.
PO BOX 740072
LOUISVILLE KY 40201
1-800-444-5445

Social Security Medicare benefits

- When a former spouse becomes eligible for Part A of Social Security Medicare benefits, TRICARE benefits normally terminate. This usually occurs when the former spouse turns 65.
- Former spouses retain eligibility for Direct Care at a Uniformed Services hospital or clinic on a space available basis after age 65.
- In cases where the former spouse becomes disabled before age 65, qualifies for Part A Medicare, and is enrolled in Medicare Part B, TRICARE does not terminate but becomes a secondary payer to Medicare.

Morale, Well-Being and Recreation privileges

- MWR authorizes use of base gymnasium, clubs and discount tickets for various events.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What happens if a former military spouse re-marries?

If a former military spouse remarries, they lose eligibility to benefits.

Can a former military spouse get Tricare benefits if an employer-sponsored health care plan ends?

Yes, medical benefits for former spouses under the 20-20-20 rule are suspended if they have an employer sponsored health care plan but that suspension can be lifted should they no longer be covered.

What if a service member's career is under 20 year?

The former spouse is NOT entitled to any benefits, regardless of the length of marriage.

What if the service member took early retirement before 20 years of service?

Unfortunately there is no special rule for former spouses. The service member would still be entitled to Tricare and other benefits but not the former spouse.

What if I'm not a 20-20-20 or a 20-20-15 former spouse?

You will not receive military benefits after divorce. This is based on Federal law. Military policy could change but, until then, there are no future benefits.

Will a service members remarriage affect a former spouse's 20-20-20 benefits?

No, former spouses become their own sponsors/DoD Designated Beneficiaries in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database and future actions, including remarriage of the ex spouse/service member, will not impact a former spouse.

Can a remarried service member or Veterans new spouse be denied benefits due to the 20-20-20 rule?

No, if eligible, there are no rules that would prevent a new spouse from receiving benefits.

Does The 20-20-20 rule entitle the former spouse to military retirement pay?

No, this issue is covered by a Federal law known as The Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act which recognizes the legal ability of state courts to distribute military retired pay to a spouse or former spouse. Contact the Legal Office for more information about division of retired pay pursuant to court order.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Coast Guard
STATEMENT OF FORMER SPOUSE

PURPOSE: To accompany request for an ID card for a former spouse.

Part I: Information relative to sponsor

SSN	Name (Last, First, MI)	Rank
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Part II: Information relative to former spouse

Name (Last, First, MI)	SSN
Home address, city, state and zip code	Employer name, address, city, state and zip code
Home area code and phone number	Employer area code and phone number

Part III: Information relative to marriage

Date of marriage to sponsor	Date marriage was terminated	Reason (divorce, dissolution, annulment)
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Part IV: Declaration

I am the former spouse of the sponsor named above. To the best of my knowledge our marriage lasted at least 20 years, my spouse served at least 20 years of service, creditable in determining eligibility for retired pay and there was an overlap of at least 15 years between the marriage and military service period.

- Have you remarried since date of divorce from sponsor? YES NO
- Are you presently employed? YES NO
- Do you have medical coverage under an employer sponsored health plan? YES NO

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the above information is true and correct. I understand that in the event this information is false, my ID card will be retrieved and I am liable to reimburse the government for medical care and other benefits received. I will immediately notify Commanding Officer (RAS), U. S. Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center, 444 SE Quincy Street, Topeka, KS 66683-3591, if any changes in the above statement occur. I understand that making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim is a violation of 18 USC Section 287 the penalty for which is a fine up to \$10,000 and imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Signature of former spouse

Date

Any "collection of information" as defined in the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (codified at 44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq) on this form has not been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and does not display a valid control number assigned by the Director. Therefore, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with any such collection of information.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

In accordance with 5 USC Section 522a(e)(3), the following information is provided to you when supplying personal information to the U. S. Coast Guard: **Authority** - 10 USC Section 1072.

Principal Purpose(s) - Used to determine eligibility for dependent ID card and benefits.

Routine Use(s) - In addition to those disclosures generally permitted under 5 U.S.C. 552a(b) of the Privacy Act, these records or information contained therein may specifically be disclosed outside the DHS as a routine use pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(b)(3) as follows: The Routine Uses published in the United States Coast Guard Military Pay and Personnel system of records notice applies (DHS/USCG-014.).

Disclosure - Disclosure of this information (including your Social Security Number, home address and employer) is voluntary, but without disclosure application for dependent ID card and benefits may be delayed as additional research will be necessary to verify your identity and eligibility for an ID card and benefits.