



Any opinions expressed are those of the author only, and not those of the U.S. Air Force or DoD. For internal use only. Published by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, 43 AMOG/JA.

2022
Volume 5
Issue 3

Keeping It Legal

It is PCS season again. Here is some useful information to make your next move a little less stressful.

PCS Tips

- ◆ Stay organized. Keep all important documents (such as wills, powers of attorney, orders, leases, birth certificates, passports, and social security cards, etc.) together in a folder or binder.
- ◆ Research your next base. Get familiar with the Child & Youth Services (CYS) and Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) services. Know what hotels are available and where the nearest commissary is located.
- ◆ Create a timeline so that you know everything is being handled and you will have less chance of last-minute delays or problems.

- ◆ Don't forget to have a plan for your pets. OCONUS locations might require certain paperwork from the veterinary or even a quarantine period. Knowing where your pets will be during the pack-out process will be one less thing to worry about during the process as well.

Claims Process

- ◆ Be sure to write down any damaged or missing items when your household goods are delivered, using as much description as possible. You and a representative from the Carrier will sign the Notice of Loss/Damage at Delivery form. Make sure you keep a copy for your records.
- ◆ File Notice of Loss or Damage forms online within 180 days from date of delivery.
- ◆ File actual claims within 9 months directly with the carrier to get full replacement value.
- ◆ After 9 months, claims are filed with the Air Force Claims Service Center.

Breaking Your Lease

The Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides the ability to break both a residential lease and automobile lease in specific situations. First, the servicemember must be named on the lease. If the servicemember receives orders for a permanent change of station (PCS) or for deployment lasting 90 days or more, then it is possible to break a residential lease. You must give written notice to your landlord as well as a copy of your orders. If the servicemember receives orders for a PCS outside of the continental United States or for a deployment lasting 90 days or more, then it is possible to break an automobile lease. Again you must provide notice to the leasing company in writing with a copy of the relevant orders.

ETHICS CORNER

Those in leadership positions may not request subordinates to perform personal services such as helping pack for a move.

5 C.F.R. 2635.705(b) mandates a Government employee "shall not encourage, direct, coerce, or request a subordinate to use official time to perform activities other than those required in the performance of official duties or authorized in accordance with law or regulation."

The Legal Office is Here to Help:

To schedule an appointment contact us at (910) 394-2341 or email 43AMOG.JA.Legalassistance@us.af.mil.
0900-1530, Monday thru Thursday.
Emergencies only on Friday.