



DDH Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact

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Benefits for Military Families

The Basics

Military families are highly mobile and are reassigned to a new duty station every two to three years on average. This level of mobility creates barriers to employment and career development for military spouses in licensed professions.

To recruit and retain military personnel and maintain readiness, the Department of Defense believes interstate compacts are the best solution for occupational license portability for military spouses.

The Department of Defense is committed to supporting military spouses as an essential component of supporting military families. DOD takes care of military families to ensure the retention of the force. Maintaining the retention of the force is essential for military readiness.

“I’ve talked to people in different careers, and it’s taken them sometimes two years to reenter the workforce.”
Oklahoma Sen. Adam Pugh, Air Force Veteran

The Bottom Line for Military Spouses

Active military members and their spouses are not required to pay a fee to the commission for a compact privilege. Remote states may choose to charge a reduced fee or no fee to active military members and their spouses for a compact privilege.

	APPLYING FOR A COMPACT PRIVILEGE	MOVING TO COMPACT MEMBER STATE
CIVILIAN LICENSEE	When applying for a compact privilege, licensee must pay compact commission fee. If a remote state chooses to charge a fee for a compact privilege, licensee must pay remote state fee.	When moving to a new state, licensee may keep their qualifying license designation and take no action. They may continue practicing under the compact in compact member states.
MILITARY OR MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSEE	When applying for a compact privilege, active military member and spouse are not required to pay compact commission fee. If a remote state chooses to charge a fee for a compact privilege, it may choose to charge a reduced fee or no fee to an active military member and their spouse.	

“Getting multiple licenses consumes an incredible amount of time, money and coordination that often requires repeated steps as documents are lost in travel from state to state. If there were already a compact, my husband and I wouldn’t think twice about how we rank our duty stations and where we beg the detailer to assign us. It would be life changing for us in many ways.”

– Dr. Christine Hammer, licensed pediatric dentist and military spouse

