



An Overview of Military Spouse License Portability

In partnership with the DoD – Defense State Liaison Office, the Clearinghouse for Military Family Readiness at Penn State examined **6 occupational licensure boards** across 50 states and Washington D.C. for a total of 306 boards.



The DoD is committed to **improving license portability for military spouses** and has set as a goal **licensing within 30 days based on minimal documentation**.



Key Findings



66% of boards provided a pathway for military spouses to **begin working within 30 days**.



Over 60% of boards met the DoD's goal of **submitting minimal paperwork** with an application.



35% of occupational board websites **listed military spouse specific-licensing details**.

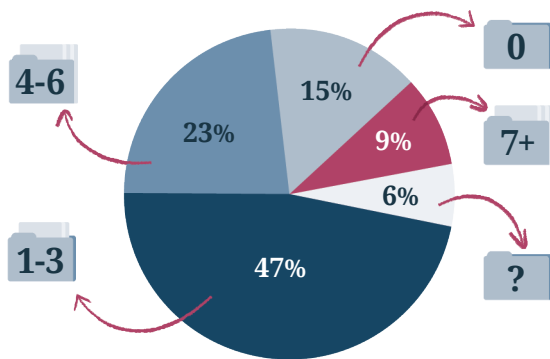
To access the report and individual state findings go to:

<https://militaryfamilies.psu.edu/mslp/>

Required Documentation

Many boards met the DoD's goal of submitting minimal paperwork with an application:

Number of Supporting Documents Required



The **majority of boards** indicated that application processing cannot be completed **until all required paperwork has been received**.



Accountancy



Cosmetology



Dentistry



Massage Therapy



Education



Pharmacy

Processing Time

There is a **significant variance** between processing times. For instance, one state allows a spouse to work using the previous state's license (**no processing time**) while another state took **16 weeks** to process an application.

66%

provided a pathway for spouses to **begin working within 30 days**.

13%

had **unknown** processing times.

9%

did not meet the processing goal.

7%

had **variable** processing times.



≈45%

of states **prioritized or expedited** military spouse applications.



Information Accessibility

> Military spouse information was provided under a variety of links including those titled **Military Spouse**, **Military**, and **Veteran**.

However, only **35%** of board websites provided military spouse specific-licensing or application details under those links.

> **33%** of the examined boards listed **Military Spouse** on their home page or in other easy-to-find locations on their websites.



Finding military spouse-specific guidance about applying for a license was **extremely difficult**.

The implication is that military spouses are **not able to take advantage of benefits granted to them**.



Work to be Done

- ☐ Reduce the documentation requirements to a minimum level that would ensure they meet regulatory requirements and facilitate the military spouse's application process.
- ☐ Continue to move toward processes that allow military spouses to work within 30 days of applying for a license.
- ☐ Make military spouse licensing information more accessible on occupational board websites.