IN VOLUNTARY SEPARATION DUE TO PARENTHOOD
CHAPTER 5-8, AR 635-200

Note: This handout only provides basic information and is not intended to serve as a substitute for personal consultation with an attorney.

BASIS FOR THIS CHAPTER:

You may be considered for involuntary separation under this chapter and paragraph if your parental obligations interfere with your fulfillment of military responsibilities. These responsibilities may include:

1. Inability to perform prescribed duties satisfactorily;
2. Repeated absenteeism and/or tardiness;
3. Inability to participate in field training exercises;
4. Inability to perform special duties such as CQ and Staff Duty NCO; and,
5. Nonavailability for worldwide assignment or deployment according to the needs of the Army.

WHAT MUST THE COMMAND DO BEFORE THEY CAN INITIATE A CHAPTER 5-8?

Separation processing may not be initiated against you until there has been adequate counseling concerning deficiencies and you have been afforded the opportunity to overcome them. The counseling statement should include the reason for the counseling; the fact that a separation action may be initiated if your parental obligations continue to interfere with fulfillment of military responsibilities; and, the type of discharge that you could receive if separated from the military.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If a failed Family Care Plan makes it impossible for you to fulfill your military duties you should work to correct those deficiencies immediately. You should keep notes on who you contact and the outcome of your conversations. If you are unable to overcome those deficiencies, you will be notified for separation.
If your parental obligations are causing tardiness or absenteeism, work with your chain of command, your chaplain, and/or childcare services to come up with appropriate alternatives to childcare to prevent future problems in performing required military duties. If you are unable to prevent future problems you will be notified for separation.

**TYPE OF DISCHARGE:**

Honorable or General under Honorable Conditions.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/ANY QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions on these matters, or need any other assistance, you should speak with a defense attorney. AR 635-200 and all Army regulations can be viewed on-line at [www.apd.army.mil](http://www.apd.army.mil).

**TDS INFORMATION:** The TDS office is located on the 1st floor, D wing, room D110, building 2027, Ft. Lewis Main Post, Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington. We provide consultation to Soldiers facing administrative separation on a walk-in basis on Mondays and Wednesdays at 1300. Please bring the original and complete copy of your administrative separation packet with you. For more information call DSN 477-1847 or (253) 477-1847.