

AR 608-99

FAMILY SUPPORT OBLIGATIONS



III CORPS OSJA

Fort Hood Consolidated Client Services

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*This Info Paper is
provided for
informational
purposes only and
does not constitute
legal advice. For
advice on AR 908-99
you should consult
with an attorney.*

What is AR 608-99?

AR 608-99 governs a servicemember's financial support obligation toward their dependents. Servicemembers must adequately support their dependents and should manage their personal affairs in a manner that does not discredit themselves or the U.S. Army.

When does this obligation begin?

Usually, servicemembers and their dependents manage their financial affairs without command involvement. However, if a servicemember and his/her dependent are unable to agree on an appropriate support amount, then the servicemember must provide support IAW AR 608-99. **BEST PRACTICE: Don't wait for a complaint. Servicemembers should begin making payments once they no longer live with their dependent.**

How much does the servicemember have to pay?

The support amount depends on the type of support, number of qualified dependents and households, when the parties separated, and whether there are any court orders in effect. The amount is based on the Non-Locality BAH table. Client Services attorneys can calculate the amount for your circumstance.

What are the different types of support?

There are 2 types of support: enhanced interim financial support (EIFS) and interim financial support (IFS). Effective 24 May 2020, EIFS is a temporary payment intended to provide for food and other necessities when families separate. EIFS is in addition to a servicemembers IFS obligation. IFS is financial support that is paid while the servicemember and his/her dependents are separated. Servicemember can only apply in-kind payments to their IFS obligation. In-kind payments are limited to, mortgage/rent and essential utilities (natural gas, water, electricity).

Who is considered a dependent?

For AR 608-99 purposes, dependents are the current spouse, the servicemembers biological/adopted children, and anyone the servicemember has a legal obligation to support. It does not include stepchildren or children for whom paternity has not been legally established unless there is a separate legal obligation to provide support.



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This Info Paper is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have questions about AR 608-99 you should speak with a Client Services office attorney.

Can the servicemember and their spouse agree to an amount?

Yes. The servicemember and their dependent can agree to an amount. However, the agreement should be done in writing. The Client Services office can advise you about what should be included in a written financial support agreement.

What is EIFS?

Enhanced Interim Financial Support was added to AR 608-99 effective 24 May 2020. The EIFS payment must be made within the first 30 days of separation and is in addition to the IFS obligation. For CONUS located dependents, EIFS is a one-time payment. For OCONUS located dependents, EIFS payments continue until there is a court order or the servicemember is otherwise released from the obligation.

What if the servicemember lives in post housing?

Servicemembers are required to pay EIFS and IFS regardless of whether the servicemember receives BAH.

How should servicemembers make the payment to their dependents?

Payments for EIFS and IFS can be made by cash, check, money order, or cashier's check. The best method to make the payment is through myPay allotment. If the servicemember makes payments by any method other than military allotment they should request a receipt.

What if there is a military or civilian protective order in effect?

If a military or civilian protective order is in effect the servicemember should coordinate with his/her chain of command to get the information necessary to make payments.

Can the servicemember be released from EIFS or IFS?

Yes, a servicemember can be released from the EIFS or IFS requirement. There are many reasons a servicemember can ask to be released from the EIFS and IFS requirement. Servicemembers should contact the Client Services office to find out if they are eligible for release and to prepare the appropriate request. The Special Court-Martial Convening Authority (SCMCA) or battalion commander is the approval authority for a request for release, depending on the circumstance. Whether to release a servicemember from EIFS and/or IFS is subject to their discretion.

What if there is a court order in effect?

In some cases, a court order that addresses financial support can replace all or part of the EIFS or IFS financial support requirement. The Client Services Office can help determine what, if any, financial support is required after there is a court order.