

Policy: The Navy will not act as a haven for personnel who disregard or evade obligations to their family members. Consequently, the Navy has established financial support requirements that apply in the absence of an agreement or court order.

MILPERSMAN Article 1754-030 provides a guide:

DEPENDENT	GROSS PAY (BASIC plus BAH)
Spouse only	1/3
Spouse & 1 minor child	1/2
Spouse & 2 or more children	3/5
Spouse & 4 or more children	>3/5
1 minor child (no spousal support)	1/6
2 minor children (no spousal support)	1/4
3 or more minor children	1/3

What this means is that under the Navy Personnel Manual, a spouse alone is entitled to a third of a sailor's gross basic pay and BAH (that is, add those amounts together and divide by three). A spouse with a child is entitled to half, and so forth. This regulation applies only when the couple has no other written agreement or court order. Furthermore, a sailor generally cannot be ordered to pay. And if a sailor can prove adultery, desertion for no reason, or physical abuse, the sailor may request relief from spousal support but not child support. The request for relief is submitted to the Director, Navy Family Allowance Activity; it must have a complete statement of facts, commander recommendations, and substantiating evidence. The command can counsel a sailor regarding support obligations and could take disciplinary action refusal to comply. A family member not receiving support, can contact the command directly, the Chaplain, Inspector General or the Legal Assistance Office, which can intervene on your behalf. If a financial situation is truly desperate, the spouse may be able to get short-term help from Navy/Marine Corps Relief, which will probably contact the sailor's command, too.

For further information consult the Navy support regulation at http://buperscd.technology.navy.mil/bup_updt/508/milpers/1754-030.htm

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