

## **CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENT**

The requirement to obtain a California Driver License may be confusing to servicemembers and their spouses. The DLIFLC/POM Legal Assistance Office has prepared this information paper to familiarize active-duty military personnel and their spouses on the requirement and procedure for obtaining a California driver license. This document is provided for information only and should not be considered legal advice.

### **Domicile and Residency**

Servicemembers may be residents or nonresidents of California, depending on what state they claim as their domicile. Domicile is the location where one intends to return to after their military service is complete. If their domicile is NOT California, they are considered nonresidents. A nonresident over 18 years of age may utilize an out-of-state driver's license as long as it is still valid. Servicemembers are not required to have a California driver license while stationed in California if they are in California on a temporary basis. A servicemember may be in California on a temporary basis if they intent to stay in California no longer than for the period obligated under the current assignment orders. Temporary basis is not indicative of the actual time in California. Servicemembers are required to get a California license if they intend to revoke their present domicile and adopt California as their domiciliary state.

### **Spouses of Service Members**

Spouses of servicemembers that are only in California to be with their active duty spouse do not have to claim residency in California pursuant to Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA). If the spouse lives in California to be with their spouse and they have a valid out-of-state driver's license, they are not required to obtain a California driver license.

### **Obtaining a California Driver's License**

If the servicemember or the spouse chooses to adopt California as their domicile or if they are unable to maintain a valid driver's license, a California driver license should be obtained. For more information on how to accomplish this, visit the California Department of Motor Vehicle website at:  
[https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/dl\\_info#two500](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/dl_info#two500) .

If you have further questions pertaining to this matter, visit our office in Building 358, Presidio of Monterey. Monterey, CA or call (831) 242-5083/5084.