SOFA STATUS

Status of Forces Agreement

SOFA is an agreement between the U.S. and Japan.

Exemptions from certain passport, visa, immigration regulations.

WHO HAS SOFA STATUS?

1. *Active duty service members in Japan*
2. *U.S. civilians who are employed, serving with, accompanying the military in Japan*
3. *Dependents:*

- Spouse
- Children, step-children, adopted children under 21
- Children, step-children, adopted children over 21 if dependent on sponsor for over half their support
- Parents, Parent-in-law if dependent on sponsor for over half their support and not an ordinarily resident in Japan.

Please visit our website for details:

https://home.army.mil/okinawa/index.php/about/Garrison/legal-office/international-law

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT/ COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

TO APPLY:

- USAG-O FORM 46-R or 47-R (See instructions on back of form)
- Route through chain of command
- Attach all required documentation

PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS:
International Law Section, Torii Legal Office
Room 238, Building 218

HOME BASED BUSINESS APPLICATIONS:
Torii MWR
Room 228, Building 236

COMMAND JUDGE ADVOCATE OKINAWA LAW CENTER

INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION
RM 234, BLDG 218
TORII STATION
Phone: 315-652-4782
Commercial: 098-961-7777,
Ext. 652-4782

INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION



OKINAWA LAW CENTER
TORII STATION

JAPANESE CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

All U.S. Forces personnel and family members are subject to Japanese Criminal Laws both on post and off post.

Provided here is a general orientation/ guidance to what a person may expect when involved with the Japanese Criminal Justice system and authorities.

Should you become involved in an incident that may result in Japanese criminal investigations, please contact our office.



- **SOFA BRIEF**– Information provided to an accused SOFA member explaining their rights under the SOFA and Japanese law.
- Could be held up to **23 days** from ARREST without formal charges.
- **BAIL** requests can be made only AFTER indictment.
- You will be placed on **INTERNATIONAL HOLD** when we receive notice of an alleged violation of Japanese Law.
- If you were performing **OFFICIAL DUTIES** at the time of the incident, immediately notify our office.
- Legal Office will assist with retaining a **JAPANESE Attorney** to represent you in Japanese Criminal Court.
- Statements will be written only in the **Japanese** language.

RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

* In Japan, questioning continues despite invoking the right. You will have to invoke with each question.
* Remaining silent could be used against you in court.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL

* In Japan, counsel cannot be present during an interrogation.

****INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPETENT AND TIMELY LEGAL ADVICE.**

COMMON OFFENSES

OFFENSE	PUNISHMENT
DUI (.03 BAC)	Imprisonment 5 yrs Fine 1,000,000 yen
NOT REPORTING ACCIDENT	Imprisonment 3 mos Fine 50,000 yen
NEGLIGENT DRIVING RESULTING IN INJURY	Imprisonment 7 yrs Fine 1,000,000 yen

PROHIBITIONS

POSESSION OF KNIVES, BLADES

PERSONAL FIREARMS, REPLICA FIREARMS

AMMUNITION

SPEARFISHING (GUNS and LAUNCHERS)

