



CLIENT SERVICES & POLICY DIVISION Legal Assistance Office



NATO SOFA Status Exemption: No Requirement to Register with Local Government

Has your German neighbor or your landlord advised you to register your family with the local government?

Have you received a letter in the mail requesting that you register with the local government?

All US Forces personnel living and working in Germany are exempt from this requirement under the NATO SOFA. Article 6, paragraph 1 of the Supplementary Agreement to the NATO Status of Forces Agreement provides,

"Members of a force, of a civilian component and dependents shall be exempt from German regulations in the field of registration of residence (Meldewesen) and aliens control (Ausländerpolizei), except with respect to registration in hotels and similar establishments (Beherbergungsstätten)."

Upon request, the Legal Assistance Office can provide you with a notarized affidavit stating that you are exempt from registration requirements and citing the NATO SOFA provision in both English and German so that you may present it to any German government establishment upon request and avoid registering.

If you accidentally registered with the local government, you should immediately de-register to avoid receiving other unwanted correspondence in the mail (e.g., letter instructing you to file income taxes with the German Finance Office, etc.).

Should you have any questions about registering with the local government or how to de-register, please make an appointment to speak with a legal assistance attorney by emailing us at: usarmy.wiesbaden.usareur.mbx.oja-wlc-legal-assistance-calendar@army.mil