

# After you separate

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Living and working in Germany after a separation. If you are a family member and your sponsor moves out of government housing in which you are living, you will be allowed to live in the housing for an additional 30 days. After 30 days, you must vacate government housing, in accordance with the housing regulation.

A Soldier may, and usually does, obtain orders for early or advance return travel for dependents – an ERD. Dependents are entitled to be returned with their household goods to their point of relocation in the U.S. at government expense. A civilian spouse is not required to use those orders to depart Germany if he or she has a regular passport. However, if you fail to return to the States after such orders are issued, *all government support, except emergency medical care, can be denied to you.* Should you decide to remain in Germany or another foreign country, you must make arrangements with the host nation government to reside in the country legally.

An **ERD**, an early return of dependents, may be requested by the sponsor or dependent. An ERD may be requested for personal reasons, such as the breakdown of a marriage.

If you are employed as a family member hire, are not a veteran, and do not have prior civil service experience, you will have 60 days from the date of separation to try to find a non-family hire position. If you are employed as a tourist or foreign national, you will be permitted to remain in the job. There are many technical rules in this complex area. In all cases you should contact the Civilian Personnel Office to obtain information specific to individual circumstances.

**Spousal privileges after separation.** As long as you remain married to a Soldier you are entitled to an ID Card. Children of military members are entitled to ID cards until age 18 (age 23 if attending college). Family members who reside in the United States are entitled to full exchange and commissary privileges.

When the military sponsor is stationed in USAREUR, a family member with ID card may use the commissary and AAFES facilities. However, once command sponsorship is terminated or the sponsor departs pursuant to PCS orders, commissary and exchange privileges terminate after 90 days.

**Dating after you separate.** A husband and wife who are separated are still legally married. Only a court can terminate a marriage. All Soldiers are subject to military law (UCMJ) and may be prosecuted for adultery even if there is a separation agreement between the husband and wife.

The legal office can advise you on the legal aspects of a divorce or legal separation but cannot grant either one.