

# MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSE RECOGNITION

## STATE PROFILE:



FLORIDA



## Overview of Military Spouse License Recognition in Florida

Florida provides a range of support for military spouses seeking to have their occupational license recognized by the state. A body of state law grants spouses with licenses from other states the ability to work in Florida. Specific webpages with information about how to take advantage of military spouse accommodations are provided on both the [Department of Business and Professional Regulation website](#) and the [Florida Health Department website](#). Florida also waives licensing fees for many occupations and offers a specific application process for military spouses.

### Interstate Compacts and Agreements

- NASDTEC Interstate Agreement (Teaching)
- Nurse Licensure Compact

40,405

Number of  
Military Spouses<sup>1</sup>

5<sup>th</sup>

State Rank in # of  
Military Spouses<sup>1</sup>

## STATE LAW SUPPORTING MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSE RECOGNITION

Under House Bill 615, which went into effect July 1, 2017, the Department now has the ability to “waive the initial licensing fee for... a spouse or surviving spouse of such member that was married to the member during a period of active duty who applies to the Department for a state professional license... The Department... offers professional licensure to... a spouse or surviving spouse... [who] currently holds a valid license for the corresponding profession in another state, the District of Columbia, any United States territory or possession, or a foreign jurisdiction.” Applicants meeting these requirements will not be required to pass a Florida examination.



<sup>1</sup> Active duty military spouses (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard), by Zip Code of residence, aggregated by State, Source: Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System, Data as of October 25, 2018.

## PROMISING PRACTICES

### Adopting License Recognition Options for Military Spouses

Florida's [Department of Business and Professional Regulation's](#) (DBPR) [Division of Professions](#) administers twelve professional boards, five department-regulated professions, and one council. These professions include architects and interior designers, barbers, community association managers, cosmetologists, employee leasing companies, and veterinarians. Additionally, the Florida Health Department has purview over licensed health occupations such as nursing, physical therapy, and EMTs. This agency oversight allows for coordinated and consistent adoption of state-level policy across occupations and related licensing boards.

The following language is applied consistently to all occupations licensed through DBPR:

"The Department now offers professional licensure to any individual that is currently serving, or has formerly served and received an honorable discharge, as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or a spouse or surviving spouse of such member; and currently holds a valid license for the corresponding profession in another state, the District of Columbia, any United States territory or possession, or a foreign jurisdiction. Applicants meeting these requirements are not required to pass a Florida examination."<sup>2</sup>

In addition, the following language is applied consistently to occupations licensed through the FL Health Department:

"As a spouse of an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States you may be issued a **temporary license** to practice your health care profession in Florida... If the spouse desires to practice beyond the

expiration of the "temporary license," the Department recommends beginning the regular licensing application process as soon as possible. A temporary military spouse license is valid for one year...

Florida [also] offers **expedited licensure processing** if you are the spouse of an active member of the United States Armed Forces, the United States Reserve Force, or the National Guard seeking licensure in health care professions... **There is no application fee, licensure fee, or unlicensed activity fee for military spouses who qualify for this type of licensure.**<sup>3</sup>

Compacts and interstate agreements—two efforts that streamline license recognition options for all individuals, including military spouses—are also in place for several occupations in the state, including the [National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification Interstate Agreement](#) for teachers and the [Nurse Licensure Compact](#) (NLC) for nursing occupations.

### Clearly Explaining the License Recognition Options Available to Military Spouses

Florida provides military spouse information on dedicated pages on both the DBPR and Florida Health Department webpages. Each page provides spouses with clear information about the license recognition options available to them and the application process necessary to take advantage of those options. DBPR provides a link to "Military Services" as a "Popular Services" menu item on the home page. A search for "military spouse" from the main page leads directly to these resources as well.

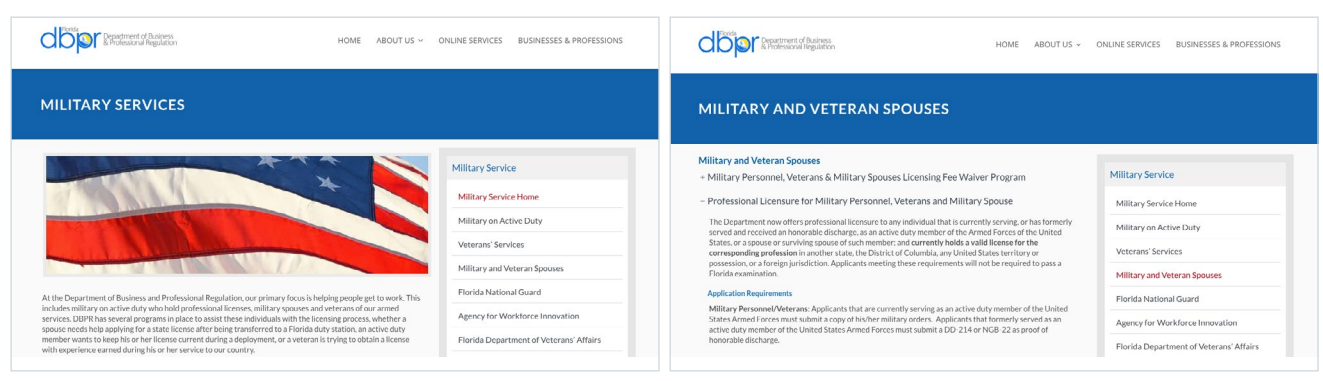
<sup>2</sup> <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/military-services/military-and-veteran-spouses/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.flhealthsource.gov/valor#MilitarySpouses>

## POPULAR SERVICES



Once selected, [a comprehensive site exists for military families](#), including a dedicated menu item and page for military and veteran spouses, which includes information on the application process and fee waivers for military spouses.



The [Florida Department of Health Licensing and Regulation](#) website has an “Armed Forces Licensing” graphic on its homepage that leads to a page dedicated to “[Licensing](#)

[for Military Members and Spouses.”](#) This page has a comprehensive collection of information for military spouses regarding licensing procedures.



## Creating a Simple Application Process

The Florida DBPR provides [an application specifically for military spouses](#) that provides instruction on how to meet requirements for all of the licenses issued by the Department. This streamlined common application is a great way to keep the process for military spouses simple, avoid confusion, and promote efficient license approval. This [“Application for Initial Military/Veteran Application for Professional Licensure”](#) is available through a separate, distinct link on each licensing page for DBPR occupations and includes “military spouses” in the link title.

## Waiving Application Fees

Florida provides fee waivers for military spouses. Under House Bill 615, which went into effect July 1, 2017, the Department is required to waive the initial licensing fee for any individual that is currently serving, or has formerly served, as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or a spouse or surviving spouse of such member that was married to the member during a period of active duty who applies to the Department for a state professional license.

The Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation provides clear, easy-to-locate website language regarding licensing fee waivers for military spouses, and the required documents needed to receive this fee waiver.

The screenshot shows the website header for the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR). The navigation menu includes HOME, ABOUT US, ONLINE SERVICES, and BUSINESSES & PROFESSIONS. The main heading is "MILITARY AND VETERAN SPOUSES". Below this, there is a sub-heading "Military and Veteran Spouses" followed by a link to the "Military Personnel, Veterans & Military Spouses Licensing Fee Waiver Program".

The main content area contains the following text:

Under House Bill 615, which went into effect July 1, 2017, the Department now has the ability to waive the initial licensing fee for any individual that is currently serving, or has formerly served, as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or a spouse or surviving spouse of such member that was married to the member during a period of active duty who applies to the Department for a state professional license.

**Application Requirements**

**Military Personnel/Veterans:** Applicants that are currently serving as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces must submit a copy of his/her military orders. Applicants that formerly served as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces must submit a DD-214 or NGB-22.

**Military Spouses:** Applicants that are spouses of a current or former active duty member of the United States Armed Forces must submit a copy of your spouse's military orders if your spouse is currently serving or a copy of your spouse's DD-214 or NGB-22 if your spouse formerly served. Applicants must also submit a copy of your marriage certificate to the military service member.

**Surviving Spouses of Military Personnel:** Applicants that are surviving spouses of a former active duty member of the United States Armed Forces must submit a copy of your marriage certificate to the military service member and a copy of your spouse's DD-1300.

On the right side of the page, there is a sidebar titled "Military Service" with a list of links:

- Military Service Home
- Military on Active Duty
- Veterans' Services
- Military and Veteran Spouses**
- Florida National Guard
- Agency for Workforce Innovation
- Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Career Source Florida
- Enterprise Florida

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