

MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSE RECOGNITION

STATE PROFILE:



Overview of Military Spouse License Recognition in Texas

Texas has been working to improve license recognition for veteran and military spouses for years. Over time, Texas has developed laws and policies to streamline occupational license recognition for military spouses and to provide clear and consistent information and application processes. Military spouses moving to Texas find clear explanations of the license recognition options available to them and knowledgeable staff who can guide them through the process. Notably, the [Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation \(TDLR\)](#), and the [Texas Board of Nursing](#) have developed particularly helpful websites and documents for military spouses.

The promising practices highlighted below from Texas licensing agency and board websites are examples of ways to help military spouses quickly and efficiently continue their careers in licensed occupations when relocating to a new state. Texas will be a state to watch in 2019, as TDLR's 2019-2023 strategic plan titled "[Seeing a Brighter Future with Common-Sense Solutions](#)" indicates a fall 2019 goal for eliminating barriers to licensing—including those for veterans, military spouses, and qualified out-of-state applicants—and reducing licensing costs.¹

Interstate Compacts and Agreements

- NASDTEC Interstate Agreement (Teaching)
- Nurse Licensure Compact
- Physical Therapy Licensure Compact

63,935

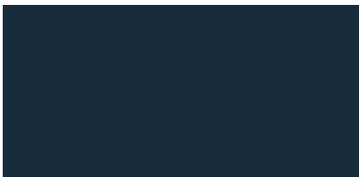
Number of
Military Spouses²

3rd

State Rank in # of
Military Spouses²

STATE LAW SUPPORTING MILITARY SPOUSE LICENSE RECOGNITION

Texas Occupations Code, Title 2, General Provisions Relating to Licensing, Chapter 55, Licensing of Military Service Members, Military Veterans, and Military Spouses, Sec. 55.001 – 55.010, states that state agencies shall, as soon as practicable, process applications and issue licenses to military spouses.³



¹ Page 24 of https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/StratPlan/2019/tdlr_strategic_plan_2019-2023.pdf

² 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.

³ <https://www.veterans.gov/milspouses/state-laws/TEXAS.pdf>

PROMISING PRACTICES

Adopting License Recognition Options for Military Spouses

The 82nd Legislature in 2011 enacted Texas Occupations Code § 55.004, entitled “Alternative License Procedure for Military Spouse,” which indicates:

- › A state agency that issues a license shall adopt rules “for the issuance of the license to an applicant who is the spouse of a person serving on active duty as a member of the U.S. armed forces,” and
- › Such rules “must include provisions to allow alternative demonstrations of competency” to meet licensing requirements.

TDLR has purview over [39 licensing programs and occupations](#), including barbering, cosmetology, massage therapy, speech-language pathology, and tax consulting.

Military spouses in occupations licensed by TDLR are entitled to expedited processing of their initial license application, additional methods by which they may obtain an initial license, and waiver of initial license application fees and examination requirements.⁴

While occupations like teachers, nurses, and attorneys are not overseen by TDLR, these licensing bodies have also adopted rules

that conform with the law. For example, in 2013, Texas became the first state to initiate recognition of attorney military spouses. [A link to the resolution can be found here.](#)

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 Texas, 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

Military spouses relocated to Texas can easily find information about license recognition options. The TDLR [Military Outreach webpage](#) can be accessed from a clearly defined button on the lower right of their [homepage](#) and can also be located via the search bar. This approach supports awareness of resources and accommodations for military spouses, and it makes information easy to locate.

The customized [“Information for Military Service Members, Veterans and Spouses” page](#) includes links to “Military Supplemental Application and Renewal” forms, and “Answers to Frequently Asked Questions” regarding military spouse license recognition options and requirements.

⁴ <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/military.htm#militaryspouse>

Information for Military Service Members, Veterans and Spouses

- [Military Supplemental Application \(MIL001\)](#)
- [Military Renewal Form \(MIL002\)](#)

[Lessons Learned: A Primer for Developing Military Service Credit for Occupational Licensing \(900kb PDF\)](#)

Military Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses Frequently Asked Questions

- [Military Experience, Service, Training, and Education](#)
- [Licensing Options For Military Service Members And Veterans](#)

DO IT ONLINE

[PENALTIES AND FINES
Pay Penalties Online](#)

Many independent licensing boards in Texas also have specific web content for military spouses. The [Texas Board of Nursing website](#) has an easily found tab at the top titled “Military,” is easy to navigate once on the page, and contains actionable information in an accessible format.

This “Military” page includes:

- › Application links and information.
- › Links to a variety of additional resources, including information on the expedited licensing by endorsement process, career resources, fee waiver information, and other transition resources.
- › The name and contact information for a single point of contact for questions regarding military spouse licensing.

TEXAS BOARD of NURSING

Military

- ✓ Verify License
- 🔄 Renew License
- 🔍 Check Application Status
- 📄 Applications & Forms
- 💻 Online Services
- 📖 CNE Course Catalog

Creating a Simple Application Process

The TDLR [Military Supplemental Application](#) is straightforward, comprehensive, and easy to find. Requirements and options are detailed in 3 pages of instructions for the 2-page supplemental application, which is submitted along with the applicant’s occupation-specific application. Additionally, the website includes extensive answers to many frequently asked questions regarding application procedures.

General information for all license applicants is available on the TDLR website by licensed occupation, provided the occupation is licensed through TDLR. Easy-to-locate menu items exist at the top of the [TDLR homepage](#) for license types, and for renewal and application.

TDLR occupations listed in the “License Types” menu provide a [“Military Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses”](#) link, which leads to information targeted to military spouses interested in license recognition in a particular occupation, including relevant forms. The example below highlights the information for barbering licensing.



Barbering

On this page:

- [Sign Up for Email Updates](#)
- [News and Updates](#)
- [Advisory Board Meetings](#)
- [Military Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses](#)

Information for Military Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses

For more information about obtaining a TDLR license or renewing a TDLR license that expired while serving on active duty, please go to the [Military Outreach home page](#).

Military Spouses - To apply for a Barber license please use the [Barber License by Examination Application](#) and attach the [Military Service Member, Military Veteran, or Military Spouse Supplemental Application](#). To apply for a Barber Instructor license please use the [Barber Instructor License by Examination Application](#) and attach the [Military Service Member, Military Veteran, or Military Spouse Supplemental Application](#).

- License Renewal and Exam Information +
- Barber Schools +
- Forms, FAQs, Rules, Law and Inspections +
- Meetings and Information +

DO IT ONLINE

BARBER SCHOOLS
 SHEARS
 - Report Classroom Hours
 - Student Enrollment Video

Non-TDLR licensing boards also aim for a simplified application process and intuitive identification as a military spouse. The [Texas Department of State Health Services](#), for example, provides a simple 1-page [Supplemental Form](#) to be included as an attachment to their regular form, which is easy to follow and complete. The [Texas State Board of Dental Examiners](#) has taken a simplified approach in their application, by providing a visible check box at the top of their [dentist](#) and [dental hygienist](#) application forms for active duty military spouses.

Waiving Application Fees

Many licensing bodies in Texas waive application fees for military spouses. For active duty military spouses who hold a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the Texas licensing requirements, TDLR waives associated application fees. The Texas Education Agency began waiving certain associated fees for military service members, military veterans, and military spouses in 2015. Certain fees are also waived for nursing occupation applicants who are military spouses.

Providing a Knowledgeable Point of Contact

The Texas Board of Nursing provides the name and contact information for a single point of contact for questions regarding military spouse licensing. This approach demystifies what can be a complex process for spouses; it ensures that they can reach a knowledgeable individual who understands their options and the process for accessing them.

Supporting Statewide Implementation

To support implementation of military spouse laws and policies, Texas developed a comprehensive [“Lessons Learned” document](#), which detailed not only the laws and requirements associated with military spouse license recognition, but also made recommendations for successful implementation. This document was helpful both for initial implementation of Texas policies and for training of licensing staff across multiple boards.

Texas continues to refine its approach to supporting license recognition options for military spouses. On September 5, 2018, Governor Abbott issued an Executive Order establishing the Governor’s Committee to Support the Military and creating an Auxiliary Military Spouse Task Force. The Committee and the Spouse Task Force made [a number of policy recommendations](#) to streamline the license recognition process for military spouses across all professional licenses and certifications. In addition, they recommended providing a comprehensive website which could be used as a resource to facilitate the licensing of military members and spouses in Texas.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE YOUR SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT BE “A MILITARY EXPERT IN ORDER TO KEEP THE INFORMATION CONSISTENT. THAT PERSON NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE PHONE AND CALL SOMEONE WHO HAS CONNECTIONS TO OTHER STATES. OTHERWISE THINGS CAN FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS DUE TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS.”

- MARK MAJEK, TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING

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