



THE JBSA JURIST

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Terminating Cell Phone and Auto Leases

Relocating with short notice is a common occurrence in the military. Fortunately, Congress extended many benefits to military members under The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). SCRA protects the legal rights of active duty, the National Guard (when serving in an active duty status under federal orders), and members of the reserve forces (called to active duty). The shield of SCRA starts the day a military member enters active duty status, and generally terminates 30 to 90 days after the date of discharge from active duty. As further addressed below, SCRA allows personnel to break an auto lease or cellphone contract when facing a permanent change of station or deployment.

Automobile Leases:

- To terminate an automotive lease, you will need to (1) provide written notice, (2) provide a copy of your orders, and (3) return the vehicle no later than 15 days after you deliver the written notice. The lease ends the day you return the vehicle.
- Active duty servicemembers can terminate their automotive leases if, after they entered into the lease, they either received military orders for a PCS move from the continental United States (CONUS) to outside the continental United States (OCONUS), a PCS move from an OCONUS base to any location, or deployment for a minimum of 90 days.
- National Guard and Reserve service members can terminate their automotive leases if they are called to active duty for a minimum of 90 days.

Cellphone Contracts:

- To terminate, servicemembers must have signed the contract prior to receiving orders. They can then suspend or cancel their contracts without penalties or extra fees when deployed for 90 days or longer, or if a change of duty station causes:
 - ◆ An inability to use the service
 - ◆ An inability to satisfy the terms of the contract
- If deployed overseas for more than 90 days, servicemembers may suspend their contracts at no charge until the end of their deployment without being required to extend the length of the original contract term.
- Most major cellphone companies provide military-friendly websites, walking a servicemember through cancelling service. AT&T allows a servicemember the opportunity to cancel service but hold their phone number for 39 months. Others will place a phone number on "vacation status," preserving it when a servicemember returns from overseas.

This article is not a substitute for legal assistance. For further information and assistance, please contact the legal assistance office most convenient to you, located at JBSA-Ft. Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland, or JBSA-Randolph, listed on the next page.

AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL

ADCs are experienced judge advocates outside the local chain of command to allow Airmen completely confidential legal advice for criminal and adverse matters.

Ft Sam Houston: DSN 471-9679

Lackland: DSN 473-2924/2926

Randolph: DSN 487-2274

SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL

SVCs are experienced, independent judge advocates who provide confidential legal advice to victims of sexual assault. They serve both restricted and unrestricted reporters, help victims understand their legal rights, and explain how the legal process works for processing sex assault claims.

JBSA (Lackland): DSN 473-4748

**PREPARE FOR YOUR
LEGAL ASSISTANCE APPOINTMENT**

LOG ONTO: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

Wills & Power of Attorney Powers of Attorney

1. Click on tab "Legal Worksheets"
2. Complete worksheet for documents you wish to have created
3. Save your ticket number, then call the Legal Office for an appointment!
4. Please complete survey online

Legal Assistance

1. Click on tab "Legal Information"
2. If the information you are looking for is not listed, call the Legal Office for an appointment!
3. Please complete online survey!

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL
ONE OF THE OFFICES BELOW**

JBSA-Ft Sam Houston

502 FSG/JA
2422 Stanley Road

*Legal Assistance Primarily by
Appointment*

Walk-in Hours

Tues 0830-1030 All eligible clients
Thurs 0830-1030 Active Duty only

Will Executions

By appointment only

Notary and Powers of Attorney

Mon-Thurs 0730-1630
Fri 0730-1200

**DSN 420-0169
Comm: 210-808-0169**

JBSA-Randolph

502 SFLSG/JA
1 Washington Circle, Bldg 202

*Legal Assistance Primarily by
Appointment*

Walk-in Hours

Mon 1000-1100 Active Duty only

Will Executions

By appointment only

Notary and Powers of Attorney

Mon-Fri 0900-1130 and 1300-1500

**DSN 487-6781
Comm: 210-652-6781**

JBSA-Lackland

502 ISG/JA
1701 Kenly Ave, Suite 134

*Legal Assistance Primarily by
Appointment*

Walk-in Hours

Wed 0830-0930 All eligible clients

Will Executions

By appointment only

Notary and Powers of Attorney

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 0830-1530
Wed 0830-1230

**DSN 473-3362
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