



# THE JBSA JURIST

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## Pre-Deployment Legal Readiness

Servicemembers expecting to deploy will benefit from a visit to the base legal office. Common issues for those deploying include: managing finances, terminating leases, estate planning, and preparing for medical emergencies. Even if you are married, your spouse may not automatically have authority to make many decisions on your behalf, so planning now can avoid problems later.

If you want to sell a car, authorize someone to withdraw money from your bank account, or help your dependent get a new military ID Card, you should ask the legal office for assistance preparing a power of attorney. A power of attorney is a legal document granting authority to another person to act on your behalf. Broadly speaking, powers of attorney fall into two categories: 1) general powers of attorney and 2) special powers of attorney. General powers of attorney provide broad authority for another person to make unspecified financial and legal decisions in your name. Because they lack specificity, not all organizations will accept general powers of attorney. For this reason, and to protect you from unpleasant surprises on your return, special powers of attorney are recommended instead. Before your legal assistance visit, take the time to think about what authority you want your representative to have (for example, to sell a specific vehicle or to renew your dependent's ID Card).

You may wish to appoint an agent to make medical decisions on your behalf in the event you become incapacitated. This can be accomplished by creating a medical power of attorney. You may want your agent to determine whether you should remain on life support in the event you are in a terminal or irreversible condition. Alternatively, you may wish to make those decisions in advance by requesting a Living Will or Advance Medical Directive. Your family and physicians would then know your wishes concerning whether to continue or discontinue life-sustaining treatment.

The military cannot require you to complete a Will, but all military members are strongly encouraged to complete a last will and testament to ensure that in the event of your death your property is distributed how you want. Your Will also should appoint guardians of any minor children in your custody. You can appoint representatives and give them authority to ensure your wishes are carried out as stated in your Will. These representatives, called executors, should be people with sound judgment and the ability to travel to and from the probate court in the county of which you are a resident.

Finally, if you are involved in an ongoing legal action and cannot attend a hearing or other proceeding because of your deployment, you may be able to reschedule the proceeding under the provisions of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA). SCRA may also enable you to discontinue certain leases for apartments, cars, and even cell phones because of your deployment. If you decide to invoke your rights under SCRA, it is recommended you first consult with an attorney at the legal office to verify whether you are entitled to relief and to walk you through the process.

Regardless of the issues you face due to your pending or current deployment, the attorneys and paralegals of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate are here ready to assist you and your family so that you can keep your mind on the mission.

**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**

Thurs 1330-1430

**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**

Fri 0900-1100 By appointment only  
Provide ticket number from the  
website when scheduling

**Notary and Powers of Attorney**

Mon-Fri 0800-1130 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 0800-0930 All eligible clients

**Notary and Powers of Attorney**

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 0800-1530  
Wed 0800-1230

**DSN 473-3362  
Comm: 210-671-3362**



**WISDOM - VALOR - JUSTICE**