

## PREVENTIVE LAW SERIRES



# NONRESIDENT MILITARY MEMBER AND DEPENDANTS VEHICLE REGISTRATION



D11 Legal Assistance, Bldg. 54A,  
Coast Guard Island  
Alameda, California 94501  
(510) 437-5891

---

### Exemption of Person in Military Service and Spouse

6701. (a) Any nonresident owner of a vehicle registered in a foreign state who is a member or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty within this state, and any resident owner of a vehicle registered in a foreign state who is a member or spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States returning from active duty in a foreign state, may operate the vehicle in this state without securing California registration after satisfying all of the following requirements:
- (1) The license plates displayed on the vehicle are valid plates issued by a foreign jurisdiction.
  - (2) The vehicle registration and license plates are issued to the military person or spouse of the military person.
  - (3) The vehicle registration and license plates were issued by the foreign jurisdiction where the military person was last regularly assigned and stationed for duty by military orders or a jurisdiction claimed by the nonresident military person as the permanent state of residence.
  - (4) If the vehicle is a motor vehicle, the owner or driver has in force one of the forms of financial responsibility specified in Section 16021.
- (b) For purposes of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a), military orders do not include military orders for leave, for temporary duty, or for any other assignment of any nature requiring the military person's presence outside the foreign jurisdiction where the owner was regularly assigned and stationed for duty.
- (c) This section applies to all vehicles owned by the military person or spouse except any commercial vehicle used in any business manner wherein the military person or spouse receives compensation.

### **Resident Military Personnel Operating a Vehicle in California**

Military personnel who are also residents of California but deployed to a location outside the state may qualify for a renewal penalty waiver. To qualify for the renewal penalty waiver, the registered owner must be ordered to temporary military duty during a period when a Presidential Executive order specifies the United States is engaged in combat or homeland defense and the registered owner is a member of one of the following:

- Armed forces, Armed forces reserve, or National Guard.
- Deployment does not include:
  - a. Temporary duty for the sole purpose of training or processing.
  - b. A permanent change of station.

Only penalties incurred during deployment may be waived. The application for registration renewal must be submitted with the appropriate fees within 60 days after termination of deployment to qualify for the penalty waiver. Complete a Miscellaneous Statements of Fact (REG 256) stating:

- That you are a member of the armed forces armed forces reserve, or the National Guard.
- The termination date of deployment. Make an Appointment(s) and take the renewal and REG 256 to your local DMV.

### **Vehicle Code §9560. Discharged Military Personnel**

Any person entering California following discharge from the armed forces of the United States is exempted from registration of passenger vehicles and trailer coaches provided the vehicles have out-of-state plates and registration. Registration becomes due when you accept gainful employment in California or become a California resident and must be paid within 20 days following that date to avoid penalties.

### **Registration**

Military personnel, stationed in California are exempt from payment of the vehicle license fee (VLF) on any vehicle owned or leased and registered in California provided:

- The nonresident military owner is shown as a lessee or registered owner of the vehicle.
- The vehicle is **not** operated "for hire."

In order to obtain the VLF exemption, military personnel must complete a Nonresident Military Exemption Statement (REG 5045) form and NATO members are required to complete a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Status of Forces Agreement (REG 5046) form.

### **Smog**

If the vehicle is to be registered in California, a smog inspection certification is required.