

INFORMATION PAPER

26 May 2016

Subj: DACOWITS RFI #12: SINGLE PARENT POLICY

1. Purpose. To provide response to DACOWITS RFI via DON Tracker Tasker # 2016-MRA_MP_MPE-000000003.002.002

2. Background.

a. The Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS) has requested a written response on whether the Marine Corps is considering implementation of a policy to allow single parents to join, equivalent to the Air Force. MCRC was designated the lead to address this RFI

3. Key Points

a. Currently, Marine Corps Recruiting Policy (MCRCO 1100.01 dtd 9Nov2011) does allow for a single parent to apply for enlistment in the Regular or Reserve provided the single parent does not have sole physical and/or sole legal custody of minor dependents.

- Unmarried, legally separated, or divorced applicants who have sole physical custody of any minor dependent are not eligible for enlistment.
- Unmarried applicants who claim a minor child(ren) (illegitimate child) with no custody or court ordered support requires a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Unmarried or divorced applicants who have been awarded joint legal custody and/or a percentage of physical custody of any minor dependent for the purpose of visitation rights, are eligible for enlistment, but require a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Unmarried applicants who previously had sole custody of a minor dependent (under age of 18) and have relinquished permanent legal/physical custody of dependent children through court order (final decree issued by the court) are eligible to enlist with Commanding Officer Marine Corps District level waiver after a 90 day waiting period has elapsed from the date of custody transfer.

- Applicants who are in the midst of divorce proceedings, unless legally separated (court ordered), are not eligible for enlistment until their situation is resolved (i.e., reconciliation or court ordered arrangement). No waiver is authorized.
- Divorced or legally separated applicants who do not have children do not require a waiver.
- Legally separated applicants who have minor dependents but do not have custody of their dependents may be eligible for enlistment but, require a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Divorced applicants who have relinquished custody of their dependent(s) to the other parent in a court ordered arrangement and are not required to provide "child support" require a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Divorced applicants who have relinquished custody of their dependent(s) to the other parent in a court ordered arrangement and are required to provide "child support" require a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Unmarried applicants who are the parent of an illegitimate child and neither have custody of child nor required to provide child support, require a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Applicants who are the parent of an illegitimate child and whose status does not fall within [this order] require a waiver from the appropriate authority.
- Applicants with a non-minor dependent, in addition to or other than a spouse, require waiver from appropriate authority.
- Applicants with 3 or more illegitimate children are not eligible for enlistment in the USMC or USMCR.
- Applicants with 3 or more dependents (i.e. M+2 or S+3) are not eligible for enlistment in the Regular Marine Corps (active component). Applicants with 3 dependents (i.e. M+2 or S+3) for enlistment in SMCR (reserve component) require a region level waiver. Applicants with 4 or more dependents (i.e. M+3 or S+4) are not eligible for enlistment in any component of the Marine Corps.

Prepared/approved by: Brian Proctor, LtCol, OD, MCRC, (703)784-9434