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Department of the Air Force

Innovate, Accelerate, Thrive - The Air Force at 75

Medical Convalescent Leave Recommendations and Command Authorizations



Deputy Chief, Military Compensation Policy Division
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Overview

- DACOWITS RFIs Responses
- DAF Convalescent Leave References



DACOWITS RFI #4

- e. Military Services: Are there differences in command consideration of CONLV recommendations made by network providers in the private sector versus those made by MTF providers?
- f. Military Services: What Service guidance has been published clarifying the provision of CONLV for birth events? Provide copies thereof.
- g. Military Services: Have the Services provided guidance regarding command authority to disapprove a medical provider's recommendation for CONLV for birth events? What is that guidance and provide copies thereof.
- h. Military Services: Must commanders document their reasons for denying convalescent care following a birth event?
- i. Military Services: If a commander disapproves CONLV for a birth event, is there an appeal mechanism for the affected servicewoman? Is there an automatic escalation to higher command authority? How are servicewomen protected from retaliation if they elect to challenge/appeal a disapproval?



DACOWITS RFI #4

- **e. Are there differences in command consideration of CONLV recommendations made by network providers in the private sector versus those made by MTF providers?**
 - There are no differences; however, the Military Treatment Facility provider is responsible for transcribing the convalescent leave request from the private sector onto a military-approved document
 - The MTF provider may alter the language in the convalescent leave request to ensure it meets military policy



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- **f. What Service guidance has been published clarifying the provision of CONLV for birth events? Provide copies thereof.**
 - The DAF's guidance clarifying the provision of convalescent leave for birth events can be found in AFMAN 41-210, para 4.33.2 and DAFI 36-3003, para 3.2.1.1.2.1
 - AFMAN 41-210, para 4.33.2 is currently undergoing revisions to remove terminology to Maternity Convalescent Leave but will continue to recommend 42 days following the birth of a live infant. Additionally, SG3/4 sent a transmittal to MAJCOM Surgeons, Medical Wing/Group/Squadron Commanders and MTF Directors providing the medical recommendation for 42 days of convalescent leave for birth parents following a live birth event



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- **g. Military Services:** Have the Services provided guidance regarding command authority to disapprove a medical provider's recommendation for CONLV for birth events? What is that guidance and provide copies thereof.
 - The DAF policies are silent regarding command's authority to disapprove a medical provider's recommendation for convalescent leave due to a birth event
 - DAF leaders recognize the importance of ensuring service member that has given birth to a baby is given the time needed to properly recover and be prepared to return to duty
 - There are no indicators that would drive the need to capture disapproval guidance in the policies



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- **h. Must commanders document their reasons for denying convalescent care following a birth event?**
 - The DAF policies are silent regarding commander's requirement to document their reason for deny convalescent leave following childbirth
 - DAF leaders understand birth mothers require this time to heal from the birthing process and would not jeopardize the service member's health by denying them convalescent leave after the birth of their child



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- **i. If a commander disapproves CONLV for a birth event, is there an appeal mechanism for the affected servicewoman? Is an automatic escalation to higher command authority? How are servicewomen protected from retaliation if they elect to challenge/appeal a disapproval?**
 - The DAF policies are silent regarding an appeal process for denied convalescent leave; however, service members are familiar with the chain of command and know issues can be elevated to the next level if required to include the Inspector General for issues considering retaliation or reprisal.
 - There are no indicators that would drive the need to capture an appeal process for convalescent leave as DAF leaders understand the need for new mothers to take their non-chargeable leave to recover and would not willfully jeopardize the safety of those under their authority



References

- **DAFI 36-3003, *Military Leave Program*:**
 - static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_a1/publication/dafi36-3003/dafi36-3003.pdf
- **AFMAN 41-210, *Tricare Operations and Patient Administration*:**
 - https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/af_sg/publication/afman41-210/afman41-210.pdf