

WELCOME TO ALASKA



Office of the Staff Judge Advocate Eielson AFB, Alaska

354 FW/JA

Legal Assistance & Preventive Law Pamphlet Series

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The Legal Office is here to help you! We're happy to answer your legal questions. We'll help you with your wills, powers of attorney, consumer law questions, and family law issues. The best part is we're free! Give us a call at 377-4114 for more information. The following is some information about Alaska laws we hope you will find useful. For additional general legal advice visit the Air Force legal assistance website at:

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

ALCOHOL LAWS

In Alaska the legal drinking age is 21. If you are caught drinking under the age of 21, you will lose your driver's license, even if you are not driving when you are caught.

Alaska has some of the toughest DUI laws in the country. If you are driving in Alaska and are lawfully arrested, you give legal consent to the state to test your breath, blood, and urine for intoxicants. If you are arrested and convicted for driving while intoxicated, the civilian penalties for DUI include mandatory jail time, fines, and possible forfeiture of your vehicle. You may also suffer military repercussions under the UCMJ, such as an Article 15 or court-martial. For more information, please see the 354 FW/JA Legal Assistance & Preventive Law pamphlet titled "Alcohol & Alaska Law."

DRIVER'S LICENSE

As an active duty military member, you may drive in Alaska without obtaining an Alaska driver's license so long as you have a valid license from your state of legal residence. Alaska state law also allows spouses to drive in

Alaska without obtaining an Alaska driver's license so long as they have a valid license from their state of legal residence. Dependents, however, are required to get an Alaska driver's license within 90 days of their arrival.

VEHICLES

As a military member, you have a choice of registering your car in either the state where you are stationed (Alaska) or your state of legal residence. Vehicles owned exclusively by dependents must be registered in Alaska. Special rules apply for leased vehicles. Please consult with one of our attorneys if you lease your vehicle.

Liability insurance is required in Alaska. The minimum requirement is 50/100/25 (\$50,000 for bodily injury or death of one person in one accident; \$100,000 for bodily injury or death of two or more person in one accident; and \$25,000 for property damage).

MANDATORY ACCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENT

If you are involved in an accident in which someone is injured or there is property damage in excess of \$500, you must provide proof of insurance to the Division of Motor Vehicles within 15 days. This is required of all drivers involved in the accident, regardless of fault. This requirement is in addition to any other report given to the police or your insurance company.

Any driver of a vehicle involved in an accident on base must immediately notify the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk (377-5130). Do not move vehicles involved in an accident prior to the arrival of Security Forces. Leaving the

scene of any accident without exchanging information and rendering aid to the injured is a serious crime under Alaska law.

WEAPONS

It is lawful to carry a concealed deadly weapon in Alaska. However, beware: you may not carry weapons, concealed or not, on base except under very limited circumstances. You may not transport weapons in any part of your vehicle except when you are taking them by the most direct route to or from the armory, family housing, or some other authorized location. Firearms and ammunition may be stored in family housing but not in the dorms.

PERMANENT FUND DIVIDEND (PFD)

If you have “the intent to return and live for an indefinite period of time” you may qualify for the PFD. For military members, that means your intent, after leaving active duty, is to return to Alaska to live out the rest of your life. For more information, please see the 354 FW/JA Legal Assistance & Preventive Law pamphlet titled “The Permanent Fund Dividend.”

LANDLORD – TENANT RELATIONS

Alaska law presumes that you have abandoned a property if you leave for more than seven days without informing your landlord. While this is not often a problem, it’s much safer to simply inform your landlord when you’ll be gone for more than a week than to risk possible eviction.

BUYING A HOME

If you are considering buying a home, make sure you carefully consider the risks. While you may make some money on the deal, you may also

lose all the money you put in and incur additional debt. Many experts recommend that you plan on spending at least five years, and preferably more, in the area to ensure a good return on your investment. Do NOT expect impartial advice from a real estate agent. For more information, please see the 354 FW/JA Legal Assistance & Preventive Law pamphlet titled “Buying a Home.”

This pamphlet is for basic information on miscellaneous state laws for military personnel stationed in Alaska. It is not intended to take the place of legal advice from a Judge Advocate. There may be important exceptions in some states to the information presented here. Please contact the 354th Fighter Wing Legal Office for questions and further information.

