

The Milspouse Guide To Using The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA)

WHAT IS THE MILITARY SPOUSE RESIDENCY RELIEF ACT?

The MSRRA deals with the residency, taxes, and voting rights of a military spouse. In general terms, the MSRRA lets a military spouse claim residency in their home state if they moved to a new state with their service member as a result of military orders.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Spouses can still vote in their home state via absentee ballot.
- Spouses generally will only have to pay state income tax to their home state.
- Spouses can file to qualify for a personal property tax exemption.

WHAT ARE THE LIMITATIONS?

- A spouse doesn't get to choose which state is their home state. That has to be established.
- A spouse may still need a driver's license in the state they PCS to.
- Income from the sale of real/rental property is taxable in the State where the property was located.

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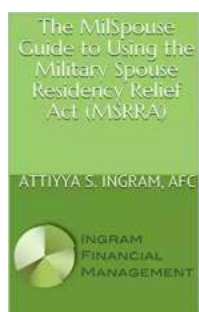
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The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) is a vital piece of legislation that provides significant benefits to military spouses. This act allows them to maintain their residency status, vote, and claim tax benefits

in their home state even if they reside in a different state due to military assignments. Understanding the MSRRA is crucial for military spouses to fully leverage its advantages and protect their rights. Here's your comprehensive guide to using the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act.

What is the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act?

The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act was enacted in 2009 to address the challenges military spouses face when moving frequently due to their partner's military assignments. Military spouses often find themselves in a unique situation where they must establish new residency each time they move, causing various issues such as difficulty with taxation, voting rights, and maintaining professional licenses.



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Residency Relief Act (MSRRA) by Attiyya S. Ingram (Kindle Edition)

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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The MSRRA aims to alleviate these challenges by allowing military spouses to maintain their residency in their home state regardless of where they live. This act grants them specific benefits and protects their rights, ensuring they face minimal disruption due to military relocations.

Benefits of the MSRRA

The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act offers several key benefits to military spouses:

1. **Residency Maintenance:** Under the MSRRA, military spouses can retain their original home state residency for tax purposes, voting rights, and other legal matters. This provides stability and avoids the need to consistently update residency information with each move.
2. **Tax Advantages:** Maintaining residency in a state with lower income tax rates can result in significant tax savings for military spouses. The MSRRA ensures they can continue enjoying such benefits even if living in a state with higher tax rates.
3. **Licensure Protections:** Many professional licenses, such as nursing or teaching, are state-specific. The MSRRA helps military spouses by allowing them to retain their professional licenses from their home state, even if they are temporarily residing in a different state.
4. **Leasing Protections:** Military families often encounter challenges in renting or leasing due to the frequent relocations. The MSRRA provides protections to military spouses to terminate leases or rental agreements if they need to move due to their service member's orders.

Eligibility Criteria

To take advantage of the Military Spouse Residency Relief Act, military spouses need to meet certain eligibility criteria:

- Must be married to an active-duty military service member.

- Must be living in a different state due to the service member's military orders.
- Intention to maintain residency in the home state.

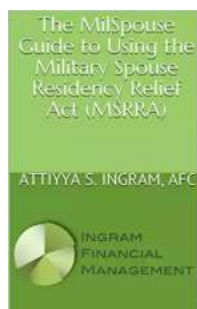
Using the MSRRA

To utilize the benefits of the MSRRA effectively, military spouses should follow these steps:

1. **Establish Residency:** Begin by establishing residency in the home state. This involves maintaining ties such as voter registration, driver's license, banking, and vehicle registration in the home state.
2. **Keep Relevant Documents:** Keep copies of important documents that prove your residency, such as lease agreements, utility bills, and tax returns.
3. **Inform Employers:** Ensure that your employer understands your residency rights under the MSRRA to avoid any unnecessary tax withholding or confusion.
4. **Stay Informed:** Familiarize yourself with the specific residency laws and requirements of both your home state and the state you are currently living in to ensure compliance.
5. **Seek Professional Assistance:** In complex situations or if you encounter any issues, consult with a legal professional or a military legal assistance office to ensure you are making the most of the MSRRA benefits.

The Military Spouse Residency Relief Act is a crucial piece of legislation that empowers military spouses with various benefits and protections. By

understanding the MSRRA and following the appropriate steps, military spouses can maintain their residency, claim tax advantages, and protect their rights even when living in different states. Utilize this guide to ensure you are leveraging the benefits offered by the MSRRA and navigating the complexities of military life with ease.



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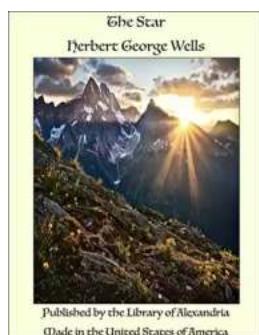
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The premier and comprehensive guide to understanding the MSRRA and avoiding excessive taxation. Written specifically for military spouses and those who prepare income taxes for military families. State specific filing requirements and form links are included.



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