

# Dependent Care Responsibilities



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*The information provided in this document is meant for the sole use of Active Duty service members, retirees, their families, and other personnel eligible for legal assistance from the Space Base Delta 1 Legal Office. The information is general in nature and meant only to provide a brief overview of various legal matters. Rights and responsibilities vary widely according to the particular set of circumstances in each case. Laws can vary across states, services, and civilian jurisdictions and laws change from time to time. Do not rely upon the general restatements of background information presented here without discussing your specific situation with a legal professional.*

## **DEPENDENT CARE RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Family Care Plans**

Pursuant to DoDI 1342.19\_AFI 36-2908, *Family Care Plans*, 24 January 2019, all Air and Space Force members with families must make family care arrangements that reasonably cover all situations in both the short and long-term.

### **AF Form 357**

The following members **must** complete an AF Form 357:

1. Single parents;
2. Dual military with children; and
3. Members married to civilian spouses with unique family situations (as determined by the commander). Some of these situations include sole care of an elderly or disabled family member and a spouse who is absent because of job commitments or personal reasons.

After the initial completion, the form must be filled out again within 30 days of a change in the family (such as the birth of a new child, adoption, or divorce).

### **Designating Guardians**

Members required to complete an AF Form 357 must designate long and short-term guardians for their minor children. This can be accomplished by executing a special power of attorney that places a trusted agent “in loco parentis.” This means the guardian can care for your children and generally provide for their maintenance, education, health, and welfare in your stead.

### **Noncombatant Evacuation Operation**

Members required to complete an AF Form 357 must designate an individual to evacuate and care for their family members while stationed overseas. The Space Base Delta 1 Legal Office has a special power of attorney form to cover this situation.

### **Financial Responsibilities**

Members required to complete an AF Form 357 must also ensure that guardians have access to adequate funds to support members during their absence. The Space Base Delta 1 Legal Office has a special power of attorney form for this purpose.

### **Be Prepared**

Members should be prepared for any contingency. Powers of Attorney are not valid after the grantor’s death. Make arrangements for someone to care for your family members until the designated guardian can take over. Legal office staff are ready to assist with specific questions or concerns in this area.