



EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM FAQ'S

- *What is the primary purpose of the Exceptional Family Member Program?*
 - The primary purpose of the Marine Corps EFMP is to ensure continuum of care for eligible Marine Corps family members by identifying families with special needs, and maximizing confidentiality and the provision of services to enhance the quality of life provided to the Marine Corps family in order to meet the mission of the Marine Corps.
- *How does the Exceptional Family Member Program make assignment recommendations?*
 - Operational requirements of the Marine Corps and requirements for career development and experience are primary factors in manpower decision making. When a Marine is enrolled in EFMP, and prior to issuance of PCS orders, HQMC EFMP will review each family member's specific medical and educational needs documented in the DD 2792 and DD 2792-1. It is imperative that your EFMP forms contain the most current and accurate information to facilitate an appropriate assignment recommendation. HQMC EFMP Assignment Specialists research and confirm the availability and accessibility of necessary care in the proposed PCS location. Results of these validation efforts are communicated to the MOS monitor, who has final authority to either release or modify the orders.
- *What is Continuation on Location?*
 - Continuation on Location (CoL) refers to the stabilization of the family and does not require the Marine to remain in a geographic location. CoL allows the family (not Marine) to remain in the location of the last fully funded PCS assignment. In all cases, efforts will be made to maintain the family unit. CoL decisions are made to facilitate the continuum of care for enrolled families.
 - If you have any questions regarding the USMC EFMP Continuation on Location process, please contact HQMC EFMP at 703-784-0298.
 - [Clarifying Guidance for Exceptional Family Member Program \(EFMP\) Continuation on Location](#)
- *What is the difference between Overseas Suitability Screening and the Exceptional Family Member Program?*
 - HQMC EFMP reviews all assignments for EFMP-enrolled Marines prior to issuance of the orders. The DD 2792, DD 2792-1 and IFSP/IEP are used to review family member requirements and to make an initial assignment recommendation. Following EFMP review, the monitor will release the PCS orders and families must then initiate the Suitability Screening process through the established office at the nearest Military Treatment Facility (MTF). Suitability screening is conducted by the Military Medical Departments and is the same for all family members, regardless of EFMP enrollment status. Suitability determination is based on a variety of factors to include: a



comprehensive review of medical records, the severity of a condition and the frequency and level of treatment; the medical and dental capabilities of the MTF/ Dental Treatment Facility (DTF) and local civilian community; the availability of ancillary, early intervention, special education and medically related services; etc. For more information about Suitability Screening, please contact your Military Treatment Facility's OSS Coordinator.

- *How does Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment affect deployment and unaccompanied overseas assignments?*
 - Enrollment in EFMP has no impact on the deployment responsibilities of Marines. Overseas-unaccompanied assignments, unit deployments, and standard deployments must be carried out without interruption. When a family member's needs conflict with such assignments, the sponsor must contact his/her command and/or Military Occupational Specialty monitor to discuss possible options.
- *Who is eligible for the Exceptional Family Member Program and what criteria must they meet for eligibility?*
 - Eligibility: An official family member with an exceptional medical or special education need, registered in DEERS, who resides with the active duty service member sponsor. This can include a spouse, child or dependent adult. It is mandatory (by MCO 1754.4B) that the Marine enroll a family member who has special medical or educational needs. Contact your EFMP office if you are unsure if you should enroll a family member.
 - Criteria (REF: MCO 1754.4B)
It is DoD policy that family members who meet any of the following criteria will be enrolled in the EFMP:
 - Potentially life threatening conditions and/or chronic medical/physical conditions requiring follow-up support more than once a year and/or specialty/sub-specialty care.
 - Current and chronic (duration of six months or longer) diagnosed mental health condition, inpatient, or intensive outpatient mental health service within the last two years. Intensive outpatient is defined as monthly, or more frequent, mental health services.
 - A diagnosis of asthma or other respiratory-related diagnosis with scheduled use of inhaled anti-inflammatory agents or bronchodilators, a history of acute asthma exacerbations, or history of hospitalizations, as captured on the DD Form 2792.
 - A mental health diagnosis (including Attention Deficit Disorder) that requires prescribed psychotropic medication(s) and/or treatment by a mental health provider (e.g., psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, etc.).
 - Special Education Eligibility Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):
 - An infant or toddler with a developmental disability (birth through two years inclusive) in conformity with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) specifying early intervention services.
 - A school-age child (ages 3 through 21 years inclusive) is entitled when a school determines a child's educational performance is adversely affected by one or



more disabling conditions. Eligibility for special education services is documented by a current Individual Education Program (IEP).

- *How do I enroll in the Exceptional Family Member Program?*
 - By submitting a DD Form 2792 (for all EFMP enrollment screenings). Also, submit a DD Form 2792-1 for any children receiving special education, to include children ages 0-3 with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). If you have any questions about the enrollment process, please contact your local EFMP office.
- *How do I dis-enroll from the Exceptional Family Member Program?*
 - EFMP is a DoD-mandated enrollment program, for the purposes of assignment coordination. When enrollment conditions are present, enrollment is mandatory. If you feel your family member no longer meets the enrollment criteria, a DD 2792 and DD 2792-1 (when applicable) must be submitted confirming the absence (with physician explanation on 2792 and/or with an early intervention service coordinator's or exceptional children's teacher on the DD2792-1) of enrollable conditions. When forms are complete, they can be returned to the local EFMP office or sent to HQMC EFMP via email at hqmc.efmp@usmc.mil. HQMC EFMP will review submitted information and notify the sponsor of the determination via letter to the official government email account.
- *How does the Exceptional Family Member Program provide family support?*
 - The EFMP provides each EFM a Family Case Worker (FCW). This case worker can help link the family with local services and supports, connect the family with local, state and national resources and networks, and assist in advocating in the schools. The program also provides educational resources in their lending library, and topical workshops, support groups and events. The EFMP also provides respite care reimbursement through the Respite Care Reimbursement Program.
- *What does the Tricare ECHO (Extended Healthcare Options) program provide?*
 - The TRICARE Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) provides supplemental services to active duty family members with qualifying mental or physical disabilities. ECHO offers integrated services and supplies beyond those offered by the basic TRICARE health benefits program. [tricare.mil/echo]
- *Are families enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program able to be stationed overseas?*
 - Overseas assignments for all service members and their dependents require screening. If it is determined that sufficient care for the EFM is NOT available, assignment screeners at HQMC EFMP will work to ensure a duty location where both career and EFM needs are met.
- *Does the Exceptional Family Member Program provide transition support?*
 - Your EFMP Case Worker at both the losing and gaining installation will assist in the transition of medical and educational care. Ask your local EFMP office for a PCS Needs Assessment sheet upon receipt of orders.



- *How can The Exceptional Family Member Program help my exceptional family member with an Individual Education Program (IEP), Individualized Family Support Plans (IFSPs), 504 Plans or SNERT meetings?*
 - EFMP Family Case Workers (FCWs) are available to assist with special education needs.
 - Review existing documents and provide feedback (even before you PCS to the area)
 - Discuss parental concerns prior to a school meeting in order to formulate a strategy, prioritize needs, and educate parents about local special education regulations or procedures.
 - Provide families with resources such as local parent resource center information, regulations, IDEA, ADA, special education rights, and more.
 - Accompany parents to meetings such as public, private, or DoD schools, county team meetings, early intervention meetings, SNAP or SNERT CDC meetings.
 - Provide a monthly parent support group so that parents can share resources and provide feedback and support.
 - Please remember to keep your FCW updated with the most recent copy of IEP, IFSP, or 504 plan.
- *How does the Exceptional Family Member Program ensure confidentiality of my information?*
 - Ensuring the confidentiality of all Personally Identifiable Information and Protected Health Information is paramount. All enrollment forms and accompanying documents and information are maintained in a password controlled database with predefined need-to-know criteria for all EFMP staff members. Information contained in the database will not be shared, (unless within guidelines For Official Use Only-FOUO) without specific written permission from the sponsor and/or adult family member. Local EFMP Managers provide limited information to the Unit Commander, or his/her designee to ensure commands are aware of those Marines who need to complete an update to maintain compliance. The information shared with the command is limited to the name, date of enrollment, and date of next tri-annual update. The specific medical diagnosis and treatment and/or special education needs of the family member will not be shared with the Command, unless the sponsor and/or adult family member provides written permission to do so on NAVMC 11720. The EFMP Case Management System will not become an element of the Manpower Management System, individual record books, or the parent command records of the sponsor, nor be referenced in performance appraisals such as Fitness Reports.
- *When should I update my Exceptional Family Member Program enrollment?*
 - When any of these conditions occur:
 - Before the 3-year enrollment update deadline.
 - Whenever the family member's condition worsens or improves, effecting their needs.
 - When the family member's status changes, through age, custody, or any instance in which they are no longer an official family member in DEERS.