



# MCCHORD'S LEGAL "EASE"

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## Want a Smooth Move for Your PCS?

If you've never PCS'd before, it can be a very stressful event. The following tips and pointers can ease the transition.

### **Moving Your Household Goods w/the Travel Management Office (TMO)?**

Before the movers pack all of your worldly possessions, make a detailed list of the "to be packed" items, especially if they are high value or unique/antique items. Make sure to include make, model, color, serial numbers, etc. The more detailed the better! The movers will create their own inventory too—be sure to review it before signing! Make sure that you don't have the movers take cash, jewelry, important documents, your checkbook, or other valuable items—take those yourselves!

Make sure you take pictures and/or videos of your special interest items, like furniture, fancy electronics, unique knick-knacks, etc. The pictures should show the entire item from all sides, as well as close-ups. Also, take a video of your TVs, computers, DVD players, etc. to show they were in proper working order before the move.

Remember that the mover's inventory will indicate the condition of your items. When you review the list, if you disagree with their marking of the condition, do so in writing (there should be room at the bottom of the inventory page to annotate this). You may feel rushed and decide to skip this, but it'll be worth it in the long run if you just slow down and take that extra time.

### **Take Care of the Legal, Medical, & Financial Stuff!**

Make an appt at the Legal Assistance Office to get a will and powers of attorney so that you're covered in unforeseen circumstances. Also, get advice about whether you're eligible to cancel certain contracts (TV, internet, rental, etc.). Take care of necessary medical, optical, or dental appointments. Get any medical or school records, or otherwise find out how to have them forwarded at a later date. Be sure to settle all outstanding bills, cancel services, and forward mail with USPS.

### **Got Pets?**

If you have pets, make sure all vaccinations are up to date. Get copies of your pets' medical records, too! This will be important for overseas

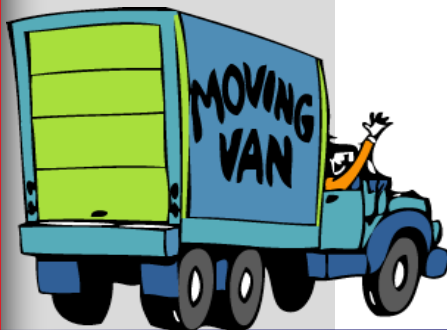


travel, and possibly even for a CONUS PCS, because you may need to provide these documents to a future landlord.

### **Got a Car?**

Make sure you take care of maintenance before driving to your next location. If PCS'ing overseas, make sure your insurance is valid overseas, and get an official letter from the lien holder to take to the shipping port allowing you to ship the POV overseas.

For more detailed info, make sure you complete your Smooth Move Briefing located on your out-processing checklist on vMPF.





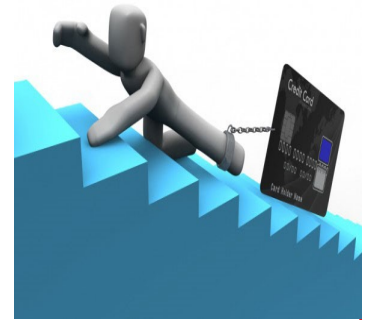


## Repair Credit & Save Money With SCRA

The Air Force can be a demanding way of life at times. It is always a challenge trying to balance our primary duties with personal life. Luckily, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is a federal law that provides benefits and protections for armed forces members who are on active duty status.

Some of the benefits include: excusal from jury duty; lease termination in the event of a deployment or PCS; 6% interest cap on preservice loans and credit cards; and stay of court action with proper notice. **The 6% interest cap on credit cards can be especially beneficial** for high interest credit cards incurred before

service. You can lower your debt to income ratio and repair your credit because more money will go towards the principal balance on your monthly payments with a lower interest rate. For more information on SCRA, contact legal assistance, or go to: <https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/>.



### **McChord Field Office of the Staff Judge Advocate**

100 Col Joe Jackson Blvd, Suite 3031  
JBLM, WA 98438  
(253) 982-6305

The Office of the SJA *only* provides legal assistance (Wills & Powers of Attorney) for personnel departing on contingency operations on short notice who cannot be seen by the satellite or the Fort Lewis Legal Assistance Office.

Mon/Wed: 0730-1630  
Tu/Thurs/Fri: 0730-1500.

### **McChord Field Satellite Legal Assistance Office**

100 Col Joe Jackson Blvd, Suite 1082  
JBLM, WA 98438  
(253) 982-5513

Legal assistance is available to authorized military, retiree, and dependent ID cardholders, by appointment only, to discuss personal civil legal matters, such as wills and estate planning, domestic relations, landlord/tenant issues, & consumer affairs. Attorneys *cannot* discuss criminal law issues, nor provide advice over the telephone.

Walk-in notary services & Powers of Attorney are available M-F, 0800-1600. Call to schedule an appointment for other matters.

### **Online Legal Assistance**

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