



Bereavement Leave for Soldiers

On 8 May 2023, Secretary of the Army released a memorandum (Bereavement Leave for Soldiers), which authorizes up to 14 days of consecutive non-chargeable bereavement leave for eligible Soldiers in connection with the death of a spouse or child.

Eligible Soldiers whose spouse or child died on or after 25 June 2022 with:

- fewer than 30 days of accrued ordinary leave on the date of death are eligible up to 14 consecutive days of bereavement leave.
- thirty or more days of accrued ordinary leave on the date of such death are eligible up to 14 consecutive days of bereavement leave once accrued ordinary leave is less than 30 days.

Eligible Soldiers whose spouse or child died on or after 25 June 2022, and who were charged leave in connection with the death, may request leave be restored through the established process in AR 600-8-10.

Key Terms

Eligible Soldier: For the purpose of 8 May memorandum, active Soldiers, including Reserve or National Guard Soldiers when on active-duty orders for longer than 12 months consecutively.

Period of bereavement: the timeframe in which a Soldier may take bereavement leave. The period of bereavement begins on the date of the death of the spouse or child and ends on the date that is no later than 14 consecutive days after the deceased person's funeral, burial, or memorial service, whichever occurs last.

Approval Authority:

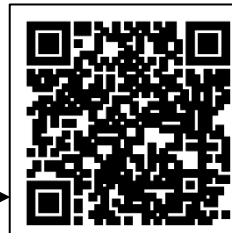
- Company-level or equivalent commanders:
 - may approve bereavement leave for eligible Soldiers. When approving leave, they must act in a swift and sensitive manner as they consider the significance of the event and its impact on the Soldier and the Family.
 - may extend the period of bereavement for eligible Soldiers because of operational requirements/deployment.
 - may authorize bereavement leave in combination with chargeable leave and other types of non-chargeable leave.

- The first general officer in the Soldier's chain of command holds the authority to disapprove a bereavement leave request.

Eligible Soldiers:

- must provide administratively acceptable documents to their company-level commander or equivalent 30 calendar days after returning from leave. Failure to do so will result in the reduction of the Soldier's ordinary leave account following return to service.
- will not be authorized bereavement leave in connection with the death of person who is not their spouse or child and loss of child resulting from stillbirth/miscarriage.
- will not be extended on, or recalled back to, active service solely to permit the use of bereavement leave.

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Relevant Regulations/ Policies:

- **SECARMY Memo** (Bereavement Leave for Soldiers), 08 May 2023.
- **10 USC § 701**
- **PL 117-81**
- **DODI 1327.06**
- **Directive-type Memo 23-003**
- **AR 600-8-10**
- **AR 600-20**