



FROM COUNSEL

A Preventive Law Service of The Office of The Judge Advocate General
Keeping You Informed On Personal Legal Affairs

Adoption Reimbursement

Many military families adopt. Some who do may qualify for reimbursement of some adoption expenses. You may find these questions and answers on Adoption Expense Reimbursement helpful in determining whether you qualify.

Q. I am about to adopt a child. Can I be reimbursed for any of the adoption fees I pay?

A. Maybe. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1341.9, "DoD Adoption Reimbursement Policy", allows active duty military members to be reimbursed up to \$2,000 per child for qualifying adoption expenses in a calendar year. This instruction can be found online at: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/134109p.pdf>. The maximum reimbursement to one service member is \$5,000 in any calendar year. The adoption must be finalized before payment will be made.

Q. How do I request reimbursement?

A. Submit a completed DD Form 2675 (September 2006), "Reimbursement Request for Adoption Expenses." This form can be found online at: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/forms/eforms/dd2675.pdf>. Your servicing unit personnel office is the best starting point to begin the claim process. That office usually maintains DD Forms 2675, and will help you complete the reimbursement application.

When it is finished, the Personnel Activity should mail the completed claim package by certified mail to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Cleveland Center (Code JFLADA), 1240 East Ninth Street, Cleveland, OH 44199-2055. You must include proof of what you paid, such as receipts showing payment and canceled checks). Reimbursement claims must be submitted no later than one year following the date on which the adoption is finalized. If you have adopted more than one child, you must complete a separate reimbursement request for each adopted child.

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Q. What adoptions qualify for reimbursement?

A. You can receive reimbursement for adopting a child under 18, foreign adoptions, and adoptions of children with special needs when these adoptions are arranged by a qualified adoption agency. A “qualified adoption agency” is defined as “a state or local government agency that has responsibility under state or local law for child placement through adoption, or a nonprofit, voluntary adoption agency that is authorized by state or local law to place children for adoption, or any other source authorized by a state to provide adoption placement, if the adoption is supervised by a court under state or local law.” Adoption of a stepchild already living in the home does not qualify for reimbursement.

Q. What are authorized reimbursable expenses?

A. Reasonable and necessary expenses include: Public and private agency fees, including adoptive fees charged by an agency in a foreign country; placement fees, including fees charged adoptive parents for counseling; legal fees, including court costs, for services that are unavailable to a member of the military services under 10 U.S.C. § 1044 or § 1044a; under certain circumstances, some medical expenses for the pre-adoptive child and biological mother; and temporary foster care charges when payment of such charges is required to be made before the adoptive child’s placement.

Q. Where do I go for more information?

A. The official Army benefits page, My Army Benefits, has information at http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/Federal_Benefits_Page/Adoption_Assistance.html

For the U.S. code section go to <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/USCODE-2011-title10/USCODE-2011-title10-subtitleA-partII-chap53-sec1052>

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service site has information at <http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/payentitlements/adoptionreimbursement.html>

For the Financial Management Regulation:

http://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/documents/fmr/Volume_07a.pdf

Your local legal assistance office may advise you on local adoption law or refer you to local adoption agencies. You may find out more about adoption law generally at these web sites:

- Visit the Child Welfare Information Gateway site at: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/> . Prospective parents can find links to subtopics such as legal considerations, common issues, and potential challenges.
- Visit the **Nolo.com** web site at: <http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/children> for general information on adoption.

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