

or, in cases that are administratively appealed, of the final decision of the DOHA Appeal Board.

c. The hearing officer shall have the authority to impose financial responsibility for early intervention services, educational placements, evaluations, and related services under his or her findings of fact and decision.

d. The findings of fact and decision of the hearing officer shall become final unless a notice of appeal is filed under section F.1. of this appendix. The Section 6 School System or Military Department concerned shall implement a decision as soon as practicable after it becomes final.

E. Determination Without Hearing

1. At the request of a parent of the infant, toddler, preschool child or child when early intervention or special educational (including related) services are at issue, the requirement for a hearing may be waived, and the case may be submitted to the hearing officer on written documents filed by the parties. The hearing officer shall make findings of fact and issue a decision within the period fixed by paragraph D.1.n. of this appendix.

2. The Section 6 School System or Military Department concerned may oppose a request to waive the hearing. In that event, the hearing officer shall rule on the request.

3. Documents submitted to the hearing officer in a case determined without a hearing shall comply with paragraph D.1.g. of this appendix. A party submitting such documents shall provide copies to all other parties.

F. Appeal

1. A party may appeal the hearing officer's findings of fact and decision by filing a written notice of appeal with the Director, DOHA, within 5 calendar days of receipt of the findings of fact and decision. The notice of appeal must contain the appellant's certification that a copy of the notice of appeal has been provided to all other parties. Filing is complete upon mailing.

2. Within 10 calendar days of the filing the notice of appeal, the appellant shall submit a written statement of issues and arguments to the Director, DOHA, with a copy to the other parties. The other parties shall submit a reply or replies to the Director, DOHA, within 15 calendar days of receiving the statement, and shall deliver a copy of each reply to the appellant. Submission is complete upon mailing.

3. The Director, DOHA, shall refer the matter on appeal to the DOHA Appeal Board. It shall determine the matter, including the making of interlocutory rulings, within 60 calendar days of receiving timely submitted replies under section F.2. of this appendix. The DOHA Appeal Board may require oral

argument at a time and place reasonable convenient to the parties.

4. The determination of the DOHA Appeal Board shall be a final administrative decision and shall be in written form. It shall address the issues presented and set forth a rationale for the decision reached. A determination denying the appeal of a parent in whole or in part shall state that the parent has the right under Pub. L. 101-476, as amended, to bring a civil action on the matters in dispute in a district court of the United States without regard to the amount in controversy.

5. No provision of this part or other DoD guidance may be construed as conferring a further right of administrative review. A party must exhaust all administrative remedies afforded by this appendix before seeking judicial review of a determination made under this appendix.

G. Publication and Indexing of Final Decisions

The Director, DOHA, shall ensure that final decisions in cases arising under this Appendix are published and indexed to protect the privacy rights of the parents who are parties in those cases and the children of such parents, in accordance with 32 CFR part 310.

PART 81—PATERNITY CLAIMS AND ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Sec.

81.1 Reissuance and purpose.

81.2 Applicability.

81.3 Policy.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 301, 80 Stat. 379; (5 U.S.C. 301).

SOURCE: 43 FR 15149, Apr. 11, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

§ 81.1 Reissuance and purpose.

This part reissued DoD Directive 1344.3, "Paternity Claims and Adoption Proceedings Involving Members and Former Members of the Armed Forces," to standardize procedures for the handling of:

(a) Paternity claims against members and former members of the Armed Forces, and

(b) Requests from civilian courts concerning the availability of members and former members of the Armed

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Forces to appear at an adoption hearing where it is alleged that such member is the father of an illegitimate child.

§ 81.2 Applicability.

The provisions of this part apply to the Military Departments.

§ 81.3 Policy.

(a) *Members on active duty.* (1) Allegations of paternity against members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty will be transmitted to the individual concerned by the appropriate military authorities.

(2) If there exists a judicial order or decree of paternity or child support duly rendered by a United States or foreign court of competent jurisdiction against such a member, the commanding officer in the appropriate Military Departments will advise the member of his moral and legal obligations as well as his legal rights in the matter. See 42 U.S.C. 659. The member will be encouraged to render the necessary financial support to the child and take any other action considered proper under the circumstances.

(3) Communications from a judge of a civilian court, including a court summons or a judicial order, concerning the availability of personnel to appear at an adoption hearing, where it is alleged that an active duty member is the father of an illegitimate child, shall receive a reply that:

(i) Due to military requirements, the member cannot be granted leave to attend any court hearing until (date), or

(ii) A request by the member for leave to attend an adoption court hearing on (date), if made, would be approved, or

(iii) The member has stated in a sworn written statement (forward a copy with response) that he is not the natural parent of the child, or

(iv) Due to the member's unavailability caused by a specific reason, a completely responsive answer cannot be made.

(4) The member should be informed of the inquiry and the response and urged to obtain legal assistance for guidance (including an explanation of sections of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief

Act, 50 U.S.C. appendix, section 501 et seq., if appropriate).

(b) *Members not on active duty.* (1) Allegations of paternity against members of the Armed Forces who are not on active duty shall be forwarded to the individual concerned in such manner as to ensure that the allegations are delivered to the addressee only. Military channels will be used when practicable.

(2) Communications from a judge of a civilian court, including a court summons or judicial order, concerning the availability of personnel to appear at an adoption hearing, where it is alleged that the member not on active duty is the father of an illegitimate child shall receive a reply that such person is not on active duty. A copy of the communication and the reply will be forwarded to the named individual.

(3) When requested by a court, the last known address of inactive members may be furnished under the same conditions as set forth for former members under paragraph (c)(2) (i) and (ii) of this section.

(c) *Former members.* (1) In all cases of allegations of paternity against former members of the Armed Forces or communication from a judge of a civilian court, including a judicial summons or court order, concerning the adoption of an illegitimate child of former members of the Armed Forces who have been separated from the Military Services, i.e., those members now holding no military status whatsoever, the claimant or requester will be (i) informed of the date of discharge, and (ii) advised that the individual concerned is no longer a member of the Armed Forces in any capacity, and that the Military Departments assume no responsibility for the whereabouts of individuals no longer under their jurisdiction. The correspondence and all accompanying documentation shall be returned to the claimant or requester.

(2) In addition, the last known address of the former member will be furnished to the requester:

(i) If the request is supported by a certified copy of either:

(A) A judicial order or decree of paternity or support duly rendered against a former member by a United States or foreign court of competent jurisdiction; or