

Early Return of Dependents

Most families at Camp Zama are enjoying their unique experience of living in Japan. But occasionally, dependents can face certain situations where they need to move back to the U.S. (or their home country) while the service member remains here. If you qualify for an Early Return of Dependent (ERD) move, it will be at the government's expense, plus you will be able to receive BAH at the location where your family will reside. This must be approved by use of your chain-of-command and it is not a fast or easy process.

Who is eligible for ERD?

To be eligible, you must be:

- Command sponsored;
- Stationed overseas (unless the dependent's home is overseas, then it can be from a U.S. location);
- Without an already approved Permanent Change of Station (PCS), Separation or Retirement.

Under what circumstances can I be eligible for ERD?

There are numerous reasons that could qualify a dependent for an ERD. You can find complete details in the Joint Travel Regulations, but some examples may be:

- Medical reasons where a certain treatment may not be readily available;
- Divorce or separation;
- Financial hardship or lack of employment opportunities;
- International situation concerning family members' safety;
- Lack of adequate housing or education.

How do I request ERD?

Contact your chain of command and your local personnel office to assist with your request. Sufficient evidence and justification should be included when requesting an ERD. Be ready to provide:

- Talk to your unit S-1 about how to administratively initiate the ERD process;
- Statement from requestor explaining the full nature of the request;
- Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Orders;
- DD Form 93 that shows dependent's current address (if applicable);
- Spouse/Dependent's statement regarding the request;
- Counseling statements from marriage/finance/ACS counselor (if applicable);
- Medical documentation and/or statement from physician (if applicable);
- Command endorsements.

Return Trips

After the government pays for your ERD move, keep in mind that you will not be provided with additional funds or reimbursements for any return trips back to Japan.

Scan the QR codes below with your smartphone to go directly to our websites.

Facebook Page



USARJ LAO Website



Ice Comment



Early Return of Dependent is distributed by the Camp Zama Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 101, Room CE209. Our office hours are 0830 to 1630 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday, our hours are 0830 to 1200. You may call for an appointment at DSN 262-4698/ commercial 046-407-4698.