Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) | Amended December 23, 2024

Federal Law Now Requires Recognition of Military Families' Out-of-State Law Licenses

When a servicemember or their spouse relocates on military orders, an out-of-state law license **"shall be considered valid"** in the new state upon application.

Eligibility and Application

Who is covered *§ 4025a(a)*	Servicemembers and their spouses who relocate on military orders.
Required documents *§ 4025a(c), (f)(4)*	**(1)** Change-of-station orders or a commanding officer's written notice **(2)** Marriage certificate (for spouse applicants) **(3)** Notarized affidavit: identity, accuracy, compliance, and good standing
Applicable licenses *§ 4025a(f)(1)*	Out-of-state law licenses must be in good standing, never revoked or disciplined, and free of any pending investigation.
Timelines and background checks *§ 4025a(b), (d)*	Admissions offices may run a background check. If recognition takes over 30 days, they may issue a temporary license with full rights.

Prohibited Requirements

- ✕ Transcripts
- ✕ Bar examination or MPRE scores
- ✕ Character and fitness examination
- ✕ Minimum years of practice
- ✕ Supervision requirements

> *"[D]emanding anything more from an SCRA applicant than what is required by federal law is illegal."*
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> DOJ letter to state bars and courts, Dec. 22, 2025

How MSJDN Can Help

- › Applicant checklist and affidavit template
- › Review of draft rules, forms, and web pages
- › Training for admissions and front-line staff
- › Sample § 4025a rules from other states

50 U.S.C. § 4025a
govinfo.gov

DOJ Guidance and FAQ
justice.gov/servicemembers

Uniform State Act
uniformlaws.org

MILITARY SPOUSE J.D. NETWORK

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