Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite Addresses Financial Considerations in Military Divorce Cases

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Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, a Jacksonville-based family law firm, emphasizes the distinct financial complexities that military families face during divorce proceedings in Florida, highlighting considerations that extend well beyond those encountered in civilian cases.

The firm's recent military divorce announcement underscores how service members and their spouses must navigate a unique intersection of federal military regulations and Florida state law when dividing assets and determining support obligations. These cases require understanding of specialized benefit structures, compensation systems, and federal protections that significantly impact financial outcomes.

Military divorces involve multiple financial components that civilian divorces typically do not address. The division of military pensions operates under the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act, which establishes specific parameters for how retirement pay can be allocated between former spouses. The Survivor Benefit Plan presents another layer of complexity, requiring careful consideration of premium costs

and benefit elections that affect both parties' long-term financial security.

"Military families face financial considerations during divorce that simply don't exist in civilian cases," states Jay Henderlite, Board Certified Marital & Family Law Expert and managing partner at Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite. "From understanding how Basic Allowance for Housing impacts support calculations to navigating the division of Thrift Savings Plan accounts, each element requires specialized knowledge of both military regulations and Florida family law."

The Thrift Savings Plan, the federal government's retirement savings program for service members, follows different division rules than traditional 401(k) accounts. Housing allowances, including Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence, complicate support calculations as these tax-free benefits affect overall income assessments differently than civilian compensation.

Healthcare benefits through TRICARE present unique challenges in military divorce proceedings. Determining eligibility for continued coverage depends on factors including length of marriage, length of military service, and the overlap between these periods. The 20/20/20 rule and 20/20/15 rule create specific thresholds that dramatically affect a former spouse's access to military healthcare benefits post-divorce.

Military disability benefits add another dimension to financial negotiations. While disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs generally remains protected from division in divorce, these benefits can influence other financial determinations including support obligations. Combat-Related Special Compensation and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay involve federal protections that require careful legal analysis.

Additional forms of military compensation, including special duty pay, hazardous duty pay, and separation pay, may factor into divorce proceedings depending on when they were earned and their classification under federal and state law. Commissary and exchange privileges, while not direct financial assets, represent valuable benefits whose potential loss affects the overall financial picture for military families navigating divorce.

Each military divorce presents distinct circumstances based on the service member's career status, deployment history, and the timing of the marriage relative to military service. These factors influence everything from pension division formulas to the availability of certain benefits for former spouses.

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite serves military families throughout Northeast Florida, including Clay County, Duval County, Nassau County, and St. Johns County. The firm maintains three Board Certified Marital & Family Law Experts as managing partners, providing comprehensive family law services

including adoption, child custody, collaborative divorce, and prenuptial agreements, alongside criminal law representation.

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Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite is a Jacksonville law firm representing clients in divorce, family law, and domestic violence cases. With three Board-Certified partners, the firm handles custody, support, alimony, and property division with dedication.

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