



[REDACTED]

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-01874

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her narrative reason for separation be changed from "Pregnancy or Childbirth" to "Hardship."

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

At the time of her military separation, she was going through a divorce with the father of her child. During the months leading up to the separation, he was arrested and incarcerated. He became violent and a restraining order was enforced. The stress from the situation caused a great deal of stress during her pregnancy. She is confident her son would have suffered severe financial, physical, and psychological problems had she remained on active duty while trying to raise him as a single parent who was only an E-1. Her presence at home was required in order to care for her son. She believes the change is justified for the following reasons:

- a. The hardship was severe and not temporary. She was going to need to be available to care for her son 100 percent of the time.
- b. The hardship developed after she entered active duty. She was not married or pregnant when she enlisted.
- c. She made several attempts to remedy the situation with her spouse, but it was not an option once he became violent, and a restraining order was needed.
- d. Separation from the military was the only option for her. She had nobody else to help with her child.

At the time of discharge, she was not made aware she should have requested her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect hardship and not pregnancy. She did not know there was a difference, or it held any weight. She thought "honorable" was the only thing that mattered. The delay was simply because she was not aware this mattered in instances such as obtaining a home loan until she was recently informed. She would like her DD Form 214 to reflect accurately, so she can possibly use the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) home loan benefit.

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2023-01874

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The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman (E-2).

On 4 Jan 99, the AF Form 31, *Airman's Request for Early Separation/Separation Based on Change in Service Obligation*, indicates the applicant requested early separation for pregnancy or childbirth. The separation authority approved her request on 12 Feb 99.

On 1 Mar 99, the DD Form 214 indicates the applicant received an honorable discharge. Her narrative reason for separation is "Pregnancy or Childbirth" and she was credited with 1 year, 2 months, and 29 days of total active service.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B and the advisory at Exhibit C.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR recommends denying the application finding no error or injustice with the discharge process. A review of the applicant's Master of Personnel Record shows she submitted a request for separation under pregnancy using the AF Form 31. The only documentation required for pregnancy is the AF Form 422, *Profile Serial Report*, confirming the pregnancy. In contrast, a request for separation based on hardship must follow specific criteria of Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, Chapter 3, Section 3C, Paragraph 3.20. Airmen may request discharge when genuine dependency or undue hardship exists. The basis for discharge may exist when: (1) the dependency or hardship is not temporary; (2) conditions have arisen or have been aggravated to an excessive degree since the airman entered active duty; (3) the airman has made every reasonable effort to remedy the situation; (4) separation will eliminate or materially alleviate the conditions; and (5) there are no means of alleviation readily available other than the separation. Undue hardship or dependency does not necessarily exist because of altered present or expected income or the family is separated or must suffer the inconvenience usually incident to military service. Extensive documentation is required, and, in most cases, the red cross may be contacted to provide additional documentation. There is no evidence in the records showing the applicant submitted an extensive separation application of this nature based on hardship.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 7 Nov 24 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

- [REDACTED]
1. The application was timely filed.
 2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
 3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DPMSSR finding no error or injustice in the separation process. The applicant requested a pregnancy separation, which required proof of pregnancy using the AF Form 422. Separation due to hardship; however, has specific criteria and requires extensive evidence for approval, which was not submitted during the applicant's request for separation at the time of her discharge nor does the evidence submitted by the applicant convince the Board she would have qualified for a separation due to hardship. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2023-01874 in Executive Session on 11 Mar 25:

[REDACTED], Panel Chair
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 1 Jun 99.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 6 Nov 24.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 7 Nov 24.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

4/2/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: GRIFFIN.MICHELLE.YVETTE.1047556798

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2023-01874