Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite Addresses Military Deployment Impact on Divorce and Custody Proceedings

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JACKSONVILLE, FL - June 30, 2026 -
Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, a Jacksonville-based family law firm with three Board Certified Marital & Family Law Experts, today highlighted the complex intersection between military deployment obligations and family law proceedings, particularly as service members face unique challenges in divorce and custody matters while fulfilling their duties to the nation.

The firm notes that military families throughout Northeast Florida, including those stationed at NAS Jacksonville and Naval Station Mayport, encounter distinct legal complexities when deployment schedules coincide with divorce or custody proceedings. These situations require specialized understanding of both federal military regulations and state family law statutes.

Deployment creates unprecedented challenges for maintaining parent-child relationships during divorce proceedings. Service members may find themselves unable to attend court hearings, participate in mediation

sessions, or maintain regular visitation schedules due to military obligations. Courts must balance the best interests of children with the realities of military service, often requiring creative solutions for time-sharing arrangements and communication protocols.

"Military parents face extraordinary circumstances that civilian families rarely encounter," said Jay Henderlite, managing partner at Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite. "When a parent receives deployment orders during custody proceedings, the entire legal timeline can shift. Courts must consider temporary custody arrangements, modified parenting plans, and alternative communication methods to preserve the parent-child bond during extended absences."

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act provides certain protections for deployed military personnel, allowing them to request stays in divorce proceedings when military duties prevent court participation. However, these protections can extend case timelines significantly, creating additional stress for families already navigating separation.

Parenting plans for military families often incorporate provisions for virtual visitation, adjusted holiday schedules based on deployment rotations, and delegation of decision-making authority during absences. The firm explains that successful custody arrangements must account for the unpredictability of military service while maintaining stability for children.

Geographic challenges compound these complexities when service members receive permanent change of station orders during ongoing proceedings. Relocation can trigger jurisdictional questions and require modifications to existing custody arrangements. The firm's earlier announcement regarding military divorce complexities emphasized that these cases often involve multiple state jurisdictions, adding layers of legal consideration.

Temporary custody arrangements during deployment require careful documentation to protect parental rights upon return from service. Courts typically view deployment as a temporary circumstance that should not permanently alter custody rights, yet extended absences can affect the practical implementation of shared parenting responsibilities.

The firm emphasizes that military families benefit from legal representation familiar with both the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act and state-specific family law statutes. Understanding how military allowances, housing benefits, and deployment pay factor into support calculations requires specialized knowledge of military compensation structures.

Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite serves military and civilian families throughout Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns counties. The firm's three Board Certified Marital & Family Law Experts provide comprehensive family law services including divorce, child custody, support modifications, and prenuptial agreements. The practice also handles criminal defense matters, representing clients facing domestic violence, DUI, and other charges.

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For more information about Sasso Guerrero & Henderlite, contact the company here:Sasso Guerrero & HenderliteJay Henderlite(904) 619-1386info@familylawyerjax.comSouthside:9191 R.G. Skinner Parkway, Suite 703Jacksonville, FL 32256

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.

Website: https://familylawyerjax.com/

Email: info@familylawyerjax.com

Phone: (904) 619-1386