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## **Changes in the EFMP RESPITE CARE PROGRAM**

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Starting in July 2011, the Exceptional Family Member Program standardized and streamlined the process for delivering respite care to eligible Families in need of support. The Commander's intent is to ensure EFMP Respite Care is effectively managed and Family members with severe, chronic medical conditions and significant medical needs have access to quality respite care services. In an effort to enhance service delivery to EFMP-enrolled Families, IMCOM has revised

EFMP respite care policies and procedures including changes in eligibility criteria and the Family Services Needs Matrix. An EFMP respite care panel will be established to review and recommend approval or disapproval of all respite care submissions to the garrison commander, who is the decision authority.

Fort Benning will implement these changes on 1 Oct 2011.

### **Procedures:**

- Family completes DA Form 5189 (Application for Respite Care for Children and Adults with Disabilities)
- EFMP Enrollment is verified.
- An individual Respite Care Plan is completed.
- A Family Needs Assessment is completed.
- A Family Services Needs Matrix is completed.
- The primary care physician is given a DA Form 4700 to complete, along with written guidance on respite care eligibility. (Beginning 1 OCT 2011)
- Once these documents are completed, they are reviewed by a Respite Care Panel for approval or disapproval of services. (Beginning 1 OCT 2011)
- Family must revalidate information on the Family Service Needs Matrix as the EFM's condition changes or at least annually, whichever comes first. Fort Benning will also begin the review and revalidation process 1 OCT 2011.

### **Policy Changes:**

- Relatives or friends living in the home of the Service Member/EFM, will not be authorized to be paid as respite care providers. Families currently utilizing a live-in caregiver will have 30 days to select a new provider.
- The Army sponsor or designee must provide the respite care provider with a medical power of attorney to ensure access to prompt medical attention while under the direct supervision of the respite care provider.
- Respite care pay rate is based on the specialty care required for the EFM and not on the credentials of the provider. Adult EFMs who meet eligibility criteria may receive respite care support for their non-EFM children. The hourly rate will be determined by the Dept of Army Central contract.
- Family members who knowingly provide false information will have respite care services discontinued immediately. Service Members who knowingly provide false information to obtain respite care services may be subject to disciplinary action for offenses under the UCMJ.

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