 <p>Department of Children & Family Services <i>Building a Stronger Louisiana</i></p>	Division/Section	Child Welfare
	Chapter No./Name	4 – Child Protective Services (CPS)
	Part No./Name	16 – Investigation of Child Abuse/Neglect Reports in Military Families
	Section No./Name	Investigation of Child Abuse/Neglect Reports in Military Families
	Document No./Name	4-1600 Introduction
	Effective Date	September 7, 2018

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Department of Children and Family Services ***(DCFS)**** to investigate allegations of child abuse and neglect in military families in accordance with the Louisiana Children’s Code.

II. PROCEDURES

A. *** INVESTIGATIONS IN MILITARY FAMILIES ****

The investigation of child abuse and/or neglect reports in military families is the responsibility of ***(DCFS)****. This policy, Part 16, describes the special features of investigations involving military families. It represents additions to Parts 1 through 10. Staff are also expected to know and use the applicable policy from Parts 1 through 10.

*** Whenever a parent/caretaker or child victim is identified as meeting the definition of a military family, the additional procedures of this Part are applicable.**


The identification may occur at the time of intake or when the investigation is initiated. The CPS worker is responsible to determine whether anyone in the home is an active-duty member of the US Armed Forces, the spouse, or another dependent of an active duty member as required in the LA Children’s Code, Article 610.

Refer to Section [4-1610](#), Coordination with Military Authorities, for the procedure to notify the U.S. Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program at the closest active duty military installation. **

B. DEFINITION OF A MILITARY FAMILY

A military family *** for the purposes of CPS policy** is any family in which at least one of the caretakers is a full-time active duty member or full time National Guard with any one of the United States armed forces. **Military families also include situations involving military service members and dependents in which either the alleged perpetrator or the alleged victim is a service member or a dependent spouse/partner or child. A military family can also include situations in which a dependent child of a service member is under the care of another adult due to deployment of the service member. **** A military family may live on the military base or in the civilian community.

A family in which the caretaker is in part-time *** Reserve forces or part time National Guard **** would not be considered a military family for purposes of ******* child protective services.

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III. FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

* [CW Client Expectations and Responsibilities – CPS](#), and [Instructions](#)

IV. REFERENCES

Louisiana Children’s Code. Article 610 **

Louisiana Children’s Code. Article 612