

**Resolution Supporting Passage of the Uniform
Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act**
Adopted by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

WHEREAS, deployment of men and women in the national uniformed services generate child custody issues that are not adequately dealt with by the law in most states;

WHEREAS, notice of deployment may be sudden as to make it difficult to resolve parenting and custody issues before deployment by alternate dispute resolution methods or post-judgment motions;

WHEREAS, the overseas deployment of a parent raises special and complex problems with the parent-child relationship during a parent's absence;

WHEREAS, return from deployment requires parents to negotiate and resolve the termination of a temporary custody situation and when the permanent custody arrangement resumes;

WHEREAS, there is a need to ensure that parents who serve their country are not penalized for their service, while giving adequate weight to the legal interests of the other parent, and, most importantly, the best interests of the child;

WHEREAS, national service in the military may mean that a child will live in or move to different states than the deployed service member, federal and state custody issues may thereby involve two or more states;

WHEREAS, variance in state laws concerning child custody and modification may significantly affect the consistency and efficacy of parenting orders;

WHEREAS, some states have adopted statutes that specifically address custody issues for service members, but these statutes provide significantly different degrees of protection to serve members and children;

WHEREAS, other states have adopted no laws that specifically apply to custody issues relating to service member;

WHEREAS, a uniform law would substantially increase predictability and certainty for families, and ensure that the same standards no matter where the parents live or a family is posted before deployment; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act (UDPCVA) provides a comprehensive and consistent solution to child custody and visitation when parents are deployed in national service;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers urges the States to adopt this Uniform Act and recommends that its Chapters support the passage of the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act.

Adopted by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Board of Governors on November 7, 2014.