

# HARDSHIP DEFERMENTS



Northampton Draft Information Center  
American Friends Service Committee  
Frances Crowe

3 Langworthy Road, Northampton, Mass. 01060  
Telephone (413) 584-8975

## HARDSHIP DEFERMENTS

The nation's lawmakers have long realized that there are some family situations in which serious difficulties exist. Because of this there is a deferment which local boards may give when a registrant has convinced them that his induction would result in an *extreme* hardship on someone who is dependent upon him.

### • Grounds for Deferment

To qualify for this deferment, you must present convincing evidence to your local board members that your induction would result in a very serious problem involving the health, safety or welfare of a dependent. The law provides that the person who is dependent upon you may be your wife, divorced wife, child, parent, grandparent, brother or sister or any person under 18, or a person of any age who is mentally or physically handicapped.

If ways can be found to resolve these hardship problems while you are in the service, then you do not qualify for the deferment. Keep in mind that the interruption of your family routine, differences in pay and other factors may present difficulties for you but are no different than those experienced by thousands of others and are generally not grounds for a hardship deferment.

A hardship deferment is also generally not given simply because a prospective inductee is the sole support of a member of his family. In such a case, you may instead qualify for a IV-A classification given to someone who is the sole surviving son of a family in which the father or one or more sons or daughters has been killed in action.

### • Applying for the Deferment

If you wish to apply for a hardship deferment, you should request a copy of Selective Service Form 118 from your local



draft board. This is a questionnaire on which detailed information bearing on hardship and dependency is requested. On the basis of the information presented by you, the members of your local draft board can make an appropriate decision in your case.

### • Requirements of Law

The law provides that the person who is dependent upon you may be your wife, divorced wife, child, parent, grandparent, brother or sister or any person under 18, or a person of any age, who is mentally or physically handicapped.

Local draft boards rule on applications for hardship deferments based on evidence presented to them.

If you request such deferment from your board, you will be mailed a copy of Selective Service Form 118, which is a questionnaire on which detailed information bearing on hardships and dependency is requested.

### • Importance of Documentation

It is important that Form 118 be filled out correctly and that any supporting evidence—such as statements from physicians, religious or community leaders, welfare agents or other documents—be included when the form is returned. This material should provide complete details supporting your case.

The board may ask you for more information after you have returned the completed form. Often the local board will ask you and others affected by the hardship situation to meet with it personally to discuss the problem.

When the board believes that it has a complete understanding of the situation, it will decide whether or not to classify you in III-A, which is the hardship classification.

### • Time Limits for Deferments

If the deferment is granted, it may be for whatever length of time the board determines, depending on the circumstances.

For example, a temporary, serious illness in your family might be cause for a deferment for a few months, at the end of which time you would be acceptable for military service.

However, a situation might exist, such as chronic illness or, continuing financial situation, that would make necessary a hardship deferment for an extended period of a year or more.

### • Deferments Reviewed

All hardship deferments are reviewed regularly. When a deferment is given, it is for a specified length of time. If you receive a deferment, you should get in touch with your board before the deferment expires to tell them whether or not the conditions for which the deferment was granted still exist and to request an extension of the deferment if the extreme hardship has not been resolved.

Should the board deny your claim and reclassify you, you have several procedural rights. The first step you can take is to request a personal appearance before the board. If your board again denies the deferment or if you do not elect to make a personal appearance, you may appeal your case to your state appeal board. If the appeal board also turns you down but is not unanimous in the decision, you may appeal to the President.

If you do not hold a hardship deferment, but because of a changed situation believe that you now should be given one, you may ask the board to reopen your classification. If so, you must submit evidence of a change before the board will reopen your case.

### • Additional Information

Detailed information regarding the appeal processes and reopening of classification may be found in other Selective Service publications available at any local board.

In all matters pertaining to hardship deferments, you should contact your local board chairman or executive secretary so that particular questions can be discussed more fully.

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