## EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY MEMBER PROGRAM (EFMP)

Welcome to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). This program is designed to identify and assist Air Force families with members having exceptional medical or educational needs. The Exceptional Family Member Program Officer (EFMPO) will help you obtain required diagnostic, treatment, or educational services. It is important for you to ask as many questions as it takes to clarify concerns about your exceptional family member.

Because of recent changes in Department of Defense and Air Force policy, it is now mandatory that sponsors with exceptional family members be identified. The EFMPO will request that a special identifier code be placed in the sponsor's personnel record. This ensures that medical and educational services will be available for all family members whenever an assignment is considered.

Having an exceptional family member is demanding and requires a lot of energy. The EFMP staff understands this and wants to help. Perhaps the best way we can help is through our understanding of the medical and educational resources available on the base and throughout the local civilian community. However, sometimes just having a person to talk to can help a great deal.

A vital part of the EFMP is to avert problems associated with being highly mobile. When a family is in the process of establishing a program for an exceptional family member, a poorly timed move could have serious consequences; therapeutic progress might be interrupted by a premature move. Additionally, treatment facilities may not exist at a projected duty station. Active duty members with exceptional family members are given preference for assignment to areas where required medical and educational services are available.

Reassignment and temporary deferment are just two of the options that may be considered. However, both retention at this base and an assignment to another base are dependent upon vacancies and manning requirements of the Air Force. Remember, EFMP is not a base of choice program. Members still must serve their overseas duty. Members who are selected for an overseas assignment where required general medical care is not available may elect the option of a short tour. The family would remain in the United States where the exceptional family member could receive required care. Upon completion of the short tour, special consideration will be given to return the member to the location at which the exceptional family member has an established program.

Whether you were referred by someone else or decided to come on your own, you can expect courteous and professional assistance.

| SIGNATURE OF CLIENT | DATE |
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