

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE  
Lexington, Virginia

GENERAL ORDER)  
NUMBER 7)

30 April 2014

For all of the reasons articulated by the January 2014 Resolution of the Board of Visitors, as set forth below, VMI enforces the following policy prohibiting any cadet from being married or a parent while a member of the VMI Corps of Cadets.

*Pursuant to the policy as amended by the Board of Visitors 25 January 2014, any cadet who marries or incurs the responsibilities of parenthood is expected to resign from the Corps. Absent voluntary resignation, should the Institute, in its reasonable judgment, conclude that a cadet is married or has incurred the responsibilities of parenthood; such cadet shall be separated from the Corps, for failure of eligibility. For the purpose of this policy, the responsibilities of parenthood are deemed to begin upon the birth of a cadet's biological child for whom the cadet has custody, child care responsibilities, or legal support obligations.*

*No cadet shall be disciplined or separated from the Corps solely for becoming pregnant. However, being pregnant may effectively preclude a cadet (at a medically determined point in the pregnancy) from performing cadet duties and meeting the standards expected of a cadet. Thus, pregnancy shall be addressed in a manner similar to any other temporary medical conditions under General Order Number 61, Medical Leave and Medical Furlough Policy.*

*A cadet, male or female, shall be deemed not to have incurred the responsibilities of parenthood upon submission to the Superintendent of an order or other legal document entered by a court of any state establishing that an individual other than the cadet has temporary custody and legal guardianship of his or her biological child and the cadet has no child care responsibilities or legal support obligations for such child.*

*Upon receiving information that any cadet has fathered a child or caused a female to become pregnant, the Superintendent will conduct an immediate investigation to determine whether or not that cadet, by a preponderance of the evidence, has incurred the responsibilities of parenthood under these regulations.*

*All cadets shall, upon matriculation, sign a statement confirming their knowledge and understanding of this policy and that they are neither married nor have incurred the responsibilities of parenthood, as defined by this policy. All returning cadets shall, at the beginning of each academic year, acknowledge their understanding of this policy and expressly confirm their explicit understanding that violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the Corps and the Institute.*

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

James P. Inman  
Colonel, US Army (Retired)  
Chief of Staff

ATTACHMENT – Board of Visitors Resolution  
DIST: E, Cadets

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS:**

WHEREAS the distinctive, values driven, education experience provided by the Virginia Military Institute is directed not only to academic achievement but, equally, to character development and leadership training - both of which are central to the Institute's educational mission: and

WHEREAS the values and behaviors inculcated by a VMI education include responsibility, accountability and keen senses of duty and honor; and

WHEREAS the duties of a Cadet at the Virginia Military Institute are developed and imposed, as part of the Institute's unique educational mission, with the intention that they induce a high level of stress and demand near exclusive attention in their performance: and

WHEREAS performance of the duties of a Cadet is intended to require mutual reliance and foster a commitment to the good of the whole, that supersedes individual needs and interests, such that men and women who choose to attend VMI choose to commit themselves to the Institute, its method and, most importantly, to each other; and

WHEREAS the military structure and operation of the Institute's program rely on the egalitarian premise that all individual members of the Corps are equally subject to the rules and regulations that govern cadet life and therefore circumstances which might form the basis for the need to make exceptions to the Institute's expectations should, as much as possible, be eschewed; and

WHEREAS the duties that accrue to an individual who chooses to marry or who becomes a parent are duties of time, attention and loyalty that the Institute respects, values and supports as having a primary claim to the loyalty of the individual who accepts them; and

WHEREAS, by its educational program, the Institute hopes to communicate to Cadets an understanding, appreciation and respect for the duties of marriage and parenthood in a manner that will encourage the deliberate and responsible undertaking of marriage and parenthood and their attendant responsibilities; and

WHEREAS to permit an individual to undertake, at once, the demanding and near exclusive duties of time, attention and loyalty required of a Cadet and duties of such primary value and importance as those owed by a spouse or a parent, would be entirely inconsistent with the demands of Cadet life, would severely undermine the good order and discipline of the Corps and would be contrary to the lessons of character that the Institute seeks to teach; and

WHEREAS, *no cadet shall be disciplined or separated from the Corps solely for becoming pregnant. However, being pregnant may effectively preclude a cadet (at a medically determined point in the pregnancy) from performing cadet duties and meeting the standards expected of a cadet. Thus, pregnancy shall be addressed in a manner similar to any other temporary medical condition.*

WHEREAS any policy governing marriage and parenthood must be even handed in its treatment of male and female cadets;

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a regulation whereby a VMI cadet who chooses to marry, or to undertake the responsibilities of parenthood, defined as custody, child care responsibilities, or legal support obligations upon the live birth of the cadet's biological child, by that choice, chooses to forego his or her commitment to the Corps of Cadets and his or her VMI education. Such a cadet will be expected to resign from VMI. Absent voluntary resignation, such cadet will be separated. . Provided, however, that this resolution and any regulation developed pursuant hereto shall not be construed to impose new obligations on any cadet retroactively.*

*Date of Adoption: 25 January 2014*