



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON ITALY  
UNIT 31401, BOX 42  
APO AE 09630

IMIT-MWA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Garrison (USAG) Italy Policy Letter #8, Child Discipline Policy

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program
- b. Supreme Court of Cassation, 6<sup>th</sup> Penal Section, Mar 18, 1996, Foro It. 1996, 407, at 4

2. Purpose. The purpose of this policy letter is to establish guidelines for Child Discipline for Families of USAG Italy.

3. Policy:

a. A Parent must exercise appropriate judgment when disciplining his or her child. Child abuse will not be tolerated. Child abuse is defined as the physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, or negligent treatment of a child. It does not include discipline administered by a parent or legal guardian to his or her child provided it is reasonable in manner and moderate in degree and otherwise does not constitute cruelty. Child abuse, to include verbal abuse, emotional abuse, and child neglect, may result in administrative, non-judicial, or judicial action against the individual.

b. Parents should also be aware that if they spank their child, either with their hand or an object, and the spanking results in a welt, bruise, or adverse effect upon the child's psychological well-being, then that act could meet clinical criteria for child physical or emotional abuse.

c. Spanking is illegal in Italy based on Italian statutes as interpreted by the Italian Supreme Court. Although Army Regulations do not expressly prohibit this form of discipline, parents who choose to spank their child in violation of Italian law could potentially face host nation legal ramifications.

d. Social Work Services, the Family Advocacy Program, or your Physician can answer parenting questions and offer information and training on effective parenting and discipline methods.

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4. Commanders and supervisors will inform all Soldiers, Civilians, contractors, and Family Members of this policy.
5. The point of contact for this memorandum is the FAP Manager, DSN 634-7489.

STEVEN M. MARKS  
COL, SF  
Commanding

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