



# TORII LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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## OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE



### SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY/WRITTEN PERMISSION TO DRIVE A SOFA VEHICLE

If you want to let another person operate your SOFA Plated vehicle, there are certain “rules” you must follow on Okinawa. This article will explain not only about the rules, and also about “best” practices.

You may only loan your SOFA plated vehicle to a person with SOFA Status<sup>i</sup> and the person borrowing your vehicle must have<sup>ii</sup>:

1. A valid U.S. Forces Japan Operator’s Permit for Civilian Vehicle (USFJ Form EJ).
2. Written Permission from the Owner of the Vehicle<sup>iii</sup>.
3. Have the vehicle title, Japanese Compulsory Insurance (JCI), Automobile Insurance (Property Damage (PD) of at least **¥3,000,000** and Bodily Injury (BI) of at least **¥30,000,000** that covers the driver borrowing the vehicle).

As mentioned, the Army rule requires written permission. Most insurance companies also require written permission or a Special Power of Attorney. Be sure to check with your insurance company before loaning out a vehicle. The best practice is to give the person borrowing your car a Special Power of Attorney to operate your vehicle. You can use this form below for either giving written permission, or for creating a Special Power of Attorney.

### SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY/WRITTEN PERMISSION

**KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS:**

That I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Owner), do hereby  
 give permission to \_\_\_\_\_ (Agent) to drive my vehicle:  
 Year: \_\_\_\_\_; Make: \_\_\_\_\_; Model: \_\_\_\_\_; License #: \_\_\_\_\_;  
 Japanese Inspection expires on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date). This permission expires on: \_\_\_\_\_ (date).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I sign, this permission to drive my vehicle in the presence of a Notary Public or other Witness.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Owner

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Dated:

**WITH THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES**

Signed before me by Owner

Witness or Notary’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name of Witness or Notary: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>i</sup> Temporary use exceptions for Non-SOFA are listed in Paragraph 2.1.4.1 of USFJ Instruction 31-205

<sup>ii</sup> Paragraph 2.1.4 of USFJ Instruction 31-205

<sup>iii</sup> Paragraph D-18c(4) of USARJ Supplement 1 to AR 190-5