



AIR FORCE

SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL PROGRAM

- Effective 28 January 2013, Airmen and other eligible persons who report they are a victim of sexual assault are eligible to be assigned a personal attorney, called a Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) at Air Force expense.
- SVCs are active duty judge advocates (JAG) whose sole role is to represent victims in a confidential, attorney-client relationship, throughout the investigation and prosecution processes.
- Each SVC's chain of command runs through the Air Force Legal Operations Agency in Washington, DC. This independence means that no one in a victim's chain of command or the chain of command of the perpetrator will influence an SVC's representation of their clients.
- What can an SVC do for victims of sexual assault?
 - o SVCs will cover the full scope of their representation the first time they meet with their clients.
 - o SVCs can provide advice to clients and advocate their interests to investigators, trial counsel, defense counsel, and commanders.
 - o SVCs can attend the interviews (telephonically and sometimes in person) victims have with investigators, trial counsel, and defense counsel.
 - o SVCs can explain questions their clients have about the investigatory and military justice processes.
 - o SVCs can help protect victims' privacy interests.
- Certain categories of victims of sexual assault are eligible for SVC:
 - o Air Force members (Active Duty and Reserve/Guard in Title 10 status at time of offense)
 - Both restricted and unrestricted reports
 - o Adult dependents of Air Force members if the perpetrator is an Air Force member
 - Both restricted and unrestricted reports
 - o Other service members and adult dependents if the perpetrator is an Air Force member
 - Unrestricted reports only
 - o Other categories eligible for legal assistance from the Air Force if the perpetrator is an Air Force member
 - Unrestricted reports only
- In addition, Basic Military Training and Technical Training students who are involved in an unprofessional relationship that involves physical contact of a sexual nature with faculty or staff are eligible if the incident occurs within the first 6 months of their service.
- Sexual assault victims can contact their local Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) or Legal Office to make a request for an SVC. The SVC Program Office will detail an SVC within 48 hours (when practicable) of receiving a request.
 - o SARC contact information <http://www.afpc.af.mil/library/sapr/sarccontacts.asp>
 - o Legal Office contact information <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/>