

## Your Rights as a Victim

In addition to your right to assistance from a Special Victim Counsel, you have to following rights in any courts-martial:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy;
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender;
- The right to be notified of court proceedings;
- The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines that your testimony would be materially affected if you as the victim heard other testimony at trial;
- The right to be heard and the right to have an attorney speak for you during certain hearings;
- The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case;
- The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender.

It is important for you to know that even if you have filed a restricted report, you are still entitled to SVC services and the opportunity to learn about the legal process and your rights as a victim.

## Attorney-Client Confidentiality

Your privacy and confidentiality are extremely important to your SVC. With limited exceptions, your SVC cannot share information you provide with anyone without your express permission. Your SVC may discuss your case with supervising attorneys and paralegals assisting in your case, but will do so only in furtherance of the representation of your interests. In such cases, the same rules of confidentiality will apply.

## If You Need Assistance

The Special Victim Counsel in your area is:  
CPT Dru M. Foster  
E-Mail: [dru.m.foster.mil@mail.mil](mailto:dru.m.foster.mil@mail.mil)  
202 Custer Road  
Bldg. 201, Fort Myer, VA 22211  
Office: (703) 696-0772  
Cell: (703) 347-4108

For further information on crime issues, see the DoD Victim and Witness Assistance Council web page at <http://dod.mil/vwac>.

# Special Victim Counsel Program



## INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS

OF

**SEXUAL ASSAULT**

**Contact: (703) 696-0761**

Fort Myer, Virginia

## What Is a Special Victim Counsel?

Special Victims Counsel (SVC) are legal assistance attorneys who have received special training and are designated by the Staff Judge Advocate as SVCs.

An SVC's role is to zealously represent you. This means, an SVC's primary duty is to you and no other person, organization, or entity.

SVC will work to empower you by fostering your understanding of the military justice process and providing you with legal assistance. This will be accomplished by providing effective and timely advice, being available to assist throughout the entire military justice process, and providing appropriate advocacy to ensure that the rights you are entitled to are fully realized.

The mission of the SVC is to provide you with confidential legal representation related to issues that may arise as a result of being sexually assaulted.

The United States Army and SVCs are concerned about the problems experienced by sexual assault victims. We understand that as a victim, you may experience anger, frustration, or fear as a result of your experience. We also understand that the reporting process and following courts-martial can be difficult. The SVC for the Military District of Washington can help you through this process.

## Special Victim Counsel Services

- Accompany and advise you during interviews, examinations, hearings, and court-martial proceedings
- Represent you in court-martial proceedings as permitted by law
- Advocate your interests with submissions to include victim impact statements
- Provide other legal assistance services
- Answer any questions that you may have about the courts-martial process

## Who Is Entitled To An SVC?

1. Active duty military
2. Army Reserve (active 30 or more days)
3. Army National Guard (ARNG) in a Title 10 status or Title 32 status more than 30 days
4. Dependents of 1, 2, or 3 above
5. If the accused is a soldier:
  - a. Active duty from other services
  - b. Other services' reserve personnel (active at time of offense)
  - c. Dependents of 5a, 5b, or 5c above
  - d. Army Reserve or NG (active 30 or more days)
  - e. Foreign military assigned to US and their adult dependents (in an OCONUS environment).

## Restricted or Un-Restricted Reports

RESTRICTED Sexual assault victims who want assistance **without** triggering an official investigation.

By filing a restricted report a victim can receive medical treatment, advocacy services, legal assistance, and counseling. When selecting restricted reporting, you may report the incident to the SARC/SHARP specialist, VA/SHARP Specialist, or healthcare providers, or SVC. **REPORTS THROUGH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND ARE UNRESTRICTED.**

UNRESTRICTED Sexual Assault victims who desire medical treatment, counseling, SVC legal assistance, **and** an official investigation of the crime.

Details regarding the incident will be limited to only those personnel who have a legitimate need to know.

When selecting unrestricted reporting, you may report the incident to the SARC/SHARP specialist, VA/SHARP Specialist, request healthcare providers to notify law enforcement, contact law enforcement yourself, or use current reporting channels, e.g. chain of command.