



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



## Taking Care of Team Members: DoD Professional Response Resources for Sexual Assault

While there is not a “normal” reaction after a sexual assault, the effects can be psychological, emotional, and/or physical, and they may be brief or last a long time. No matter the effects you may be experiencing, we are here to help. Your health matters. You are always part of our team.

### Reporting Options that are Sensitive and Responsive to Your Needs

#### Unrestricted Report

Allows you to receive medical treatment, advocacy services, and legal support. With this option, DoD law enforcement initiates an investigation and your chain-of-command is notified. You have the right to be reasonably protected and may also be eligible for other protections including Military Protective Order and expedited transfer.

#### Restricted Report

Allows you to receive legal advice, medical care, and advocacy services, but does not trigger an investigation. Please go to Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and SAPR Victim Advocates (VAs) to learn more about Restricted Reports. You do not have to tell law enforcement or your commander about your sexual assault to receive care and other assistance.


#### Victim Reporting Preference Statement

SARCs and SAPR VAs assist victims of sexual assault to complete a Victim Reporting Preference Statement (DD Form 2910) so they may elect a reporting option and understand the rights and resources available. This form may be used in other matters before other agencies (e.g., the Department of Veterans Affairs) or for other lawful purposes.

### YOU ARE NOT ALONE: DEDICATED RESPONSE RESOURCES

Professionals are available everywhere the military operates to provide healthcare, advocacy, and legal representation that is independent of command.

- >> **Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC):**  
An installation or unit resource who provides confidential support and coordinates care for a victim of sexual assault throughout the investigation and recovery
- >> **SAPR Victim Advocate (SAPR VA):**  
An advocate who provides confidential support, education, and resources to a victim of sexual assault under the supervision of a SARC
- >> **Special Victims’ Counsel/ Victims’ Legal Counsel/ Victims’ Counsel (SVC/VLC/VC):**  
An active-duty judge advocate who represents a victim of sexual assault by providing legal advice, guidance, and assistance with exercising their legal rights as a crime victim in a confidential, attorney-client relationship. This is your own attorney, this is not a prosecutor or defense attorney
- >> **Chaplain:**  
A military member who can provide spiritual advice and counseling to a victim of sexual assault. Communication is protected and confidential, however chaplains cannot take reports of sexual assault
- >> **Forensic Healthcare Examiner (FHE):**  
A specially-trained medical professional who can conduct a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) and address medical concerns associated with the sexual assault. Even if you do not want a SAFE, you are always entitled to medical and behavioral care
- >> **Catch a Serial Offender Program (CATCH):**  
If you are not ready to report your sexual assault, ask your SARC about the CATCH program where you can anonymously submit suspect information to help the DoD identify serial offenders. You can also submit an entry if you filed a Restricted Report or an Unrestricted Report where the name of the suspect was not provided to law enforcement



If you have experienced a sexual assault, you can talk to someone anonymously by calling 877-995-5247 or visiting [www.SafeHelpline.org](http://www.SafeHelpline.org). A trained professional is always there to provide immediate assistance and can connect you with local response resources. Talking to a professional can be an important first step in the healing process.

### Important Reminders and Department of Veterans Affairs Resources

Service members on flying status, in the Personnel Reliability Program (PRP), or in the Presidential Support Program (PSP) are reminded to follow DoD and Service policy requiring them to inform the flight surgeon or Competent Medical Authority anytime they receive medical and mental healthcare, especially when that care is from a non-DoD or non-TriCare source. Failure to do so may jeopardize your ability to continue in the PRP, PSP, or on flight status, and could possibly have other career implications.

When Service members seek care at a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center, information regarding treatment will be included in VA medical records and be marked sensitive. Medical records may be accessed by DoD personnel under certain circumstances on a need-to-know basis.

Every VA healthcare facility has a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) military sexual trauma (MST) coordinator who can assist in assessing MST-related medical and mental healthcare. Information is available at: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/vha-mst-coordinators.asp>.

For help with disability claims related to MST, contact the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) MST outreach coordinator at your local VBA regional office. Information is available at: <https://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp>.