



# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



## Victim Reporting Options Guide

Sexual assault is a crime that harms our Service members, erodes our readiness, and hinders our ability to field the ready force that the National Defense Strategy requires. Deciding whether to report a sexual assault is a deeply personal decision; however, reporting can be a gateway to recovery. The DoD's Unrestricted Reporting and Restricted Reporting options allow Service members who experience sexual assault to exercise control over how and when they engage with helping resources. Both reporting options allow victims to receive medical, legal, and advocacy services.

### Unrestricted Report

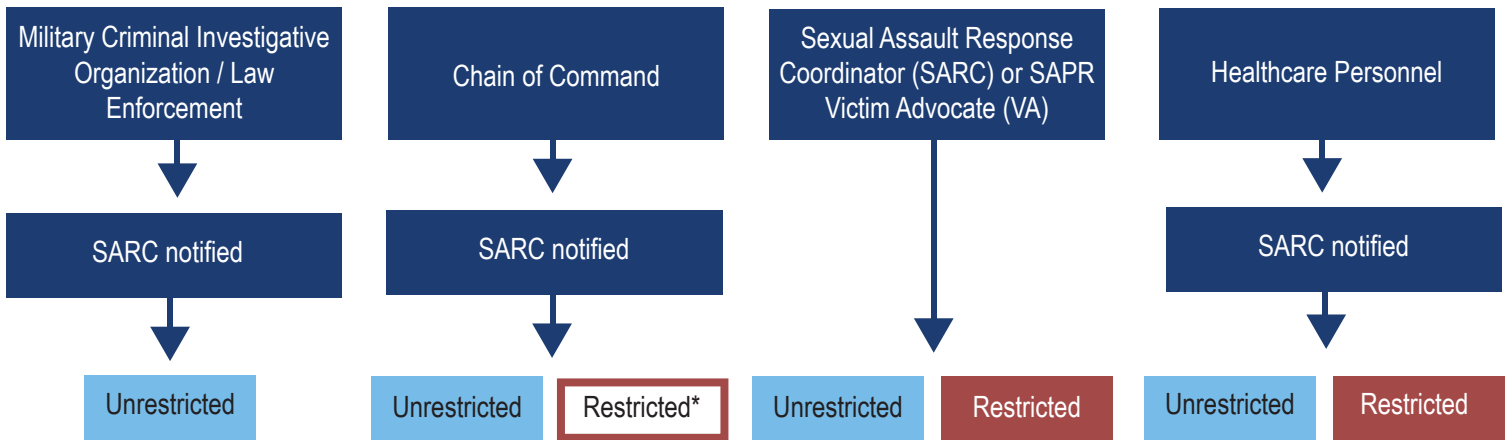
Allows adult victims of sexual assault to report crimes without requesting confidentiality of their allegations. DoD law enforcement initiates an investigation and the chain of command is notified. This option also allows reporting of retaliation related to a sexual assault report.

### Restricted Report

Allows adult victims of sexual assault to confidentially report the crime to specified individuals without triggering an investigation. Information provided to the chain of command does not reveal personally identifying information. Only SARC, SAPR VAs, and health care personnel can accept a Restricted Report.

## VICTIM REPORTING AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS

When the victim discloses a sexual assault to...



\*A victim who discloses a sexual assault to command **may** be eligible for a Restricted Report, unless disclosed to a law enforcement commander. Victims should always try to speak first to a SARC or SAPR VA to preserve both reporting options.

## CARE & RECOVERY SERVICES

### For All Reporting Options

- SARC/SAPR VA advocacy services
- Healthcare
- Mental Healthcare
- Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE)
- Consultation & representation through Special Victims' Counsel/Victims' Legal Counsel/Victims' Counsel
- Spiritual support through Military Chaplains
- Victim safety assessments

### For Unrestricted Reporting

- Command Response
- Investigation
- Prosecution
- Retaliation Reporting
- Ability to request Military Protective Order and/or Expedited Transfer
- Participation in the CATCH a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program when the name of the suspect is not reported to or known by law enforcement

### For Restricted Reporting

- Participation in the CATCH Program

For more information about the SAPR program, please visit [sapr.mil](http://sapr.mil).  
For help with understanding reporting options or confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or [safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org).