

Confidentiality

Whether a service member meets or speaks with a detailed military defense counsel, a detailed appellate defense counsel, or a military defense attorney on a walk-in basis, all of these conversations are covered by the attorney-client privilege, and as such are treated as confidential and cannot be disclosed by the defense attorney. Not only are those conversations protected by the attorney-client privilege, the defense attorney is required to provide guidance and advocacy to the member that is in the member's best interest.

Appellate Defense

A member convicted at court-martial will have their case reviewed by either a judge advocate or an appellate court. The type of initial review depends on the sentence. Coast Guard Defense Services includes appellate defense counsel who can assist with appellate matters, including parole and clemency petitions with the Coast Guard's Residual Clemency Board.

Q. I was found guilty at a court-martial. Currently, I am still on active duty, can I receive assistance from an appellate counsel?

A. Yes. Defense Services is available to discuss specific cases and available services. If you have questions regarding appellate assistance contact us at hqs-dg-lst-cg-lad-d@uscg.mil.

Q. Can I call Defense Services if I was discharged after a court-martial but haven't received my DD-214 form yet?

A. Yes. Please contact us to further discuss your specific case at hqs-dg-lst-cg-lad-d@uscg.mil.

Defense Service Office (DSO)

Navy DSOs, staffed by Coast Guard and Navy defense counsel, offer a comprehensive assortment of services for military members including but not limited to formal representation at courts-martial and administrative proceedings and advice regarding non-judicial punishment and investigations. Coast Guard members can visit any Navy DSO for defense services. Members may also contact Coast Guard Defense Services directly. A complete list of available locations can be viewed on the DSO Locator website:

DSO Quick Reference List:

DSO NORTH:

DSO NorthDefense1@us.navy.mil
Washington, DC Groton, CT
202-685-5595 860-694-3211

DSO WEST:

navylegaldefensesw@navy.mil
San Diego, CA Bremerton, WA
619-556-7539 360-476-2157

DSO PACIFIC:

Guam Pearl Harbor, HI
671-339-6067 808-473-1400

DSO SOUTHEAST:

DSOSE_PERSREPS@navy.mil
Norfolk, VA Jacksonville, FL
757-341-4469 904-542-8606
Pensacola, FL Mayport, FL
850-452-3730 904-804-1564

DSO Locator: https://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/legal_services_locator_dso.htm

Alternatively, CG-LAD-D may be contacted at HQS-DG-LST-CG-LAD-D@uscg.mil.

United States Coast Guard

Defense Services CG-LAD-D

1254 Charles Morris Street
Building 58
Washington, DC 20374

Office: 202-685-5288

Email: hqs-dg-lst-cg-lad-d@uscg.mil

Website: <https://www.uscg.mil/Resources/Legal/LAD/Defense-Counsel/>

DSO Locator: https://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/legal_services_locator_dso.htm



The Defense Services Division, a separate entity from traditional legal offices, provides qualified military defense counsel to Coast Guard members seeking information about their rights or facing disciplinary proceedings and adverse personnel actions.

**To reach a defense attorney use the
DSO Locator: https://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/legal_services_locator_dso.htm**

Defense Services

Coast Guard members may face disciplinary proceedings or adverse personnel actions. To help members navigate the complexities of disciplinary and administrative systems, members are sometimes entitled to have military defense attorneys detailed to represent their interests. There are other times, typically in the early stages of investigations, when members may want to discuss matters with a military defense attorney but have not received detailed counsel. This type of advocacy is known as "Walk-in Advocacy" or Personal Representative (PERSREP). Discussions between a member and defense attorney in both instances are confidential and treated as privileged communication.

WALK-IN ADVOCACY (PERSREP): Generally, Coast Guard members are able to contact a military defense attorney during regular business hours to discuss member advocacy issues. This contact is typically accomplished by a member calling or visiting a Navy DSO. DSO locations and related information are provided elsewhere in this pamphlet. Members should contact the nearest DSO for specific information about their Walk-In/PERSREP process.

DETAILED COUNSEL: Coast Guard members are entitled to a detailed military defense attorney in various instances; including after court-martial charges are preferred against a member or upon command notification of the intent to convene an Administrative Separation Board. If a member elects civilian counsel representation at their own expense for an administrative proceeding, military counsel will also be provided if CG-LAD-D deems there are available resources. Inquires of defense attorney availability should be directed to CG LAD-D at hqs-dg-lst-cg-lad-d@uscg.mil.

Services Offered

A Coast Guard member may contact a defense attorney to discuss advocacy issues including but not limited to the following matters:

Investigations

Article 31b Rights (Rights Warning)

Article 138 Complaints of Wrongs

Line of Duty Determinations

Restriction/Conditions on Liberty

Relief for Cause

Security Revocation

Chief Petty Officer Incompetency Board

Ineligibility for Reenlistment

Non-Judicial Punishment

Administrative Separations

Boards of Inquiry

Summary Court-Martial

Special Court-Martial

General Court-Martial

Post-Trial Matters and Appeals

Parole and Clemency Matters

For a list and explanation of services provided please visit our website: <https://www.uscg.mil/Resources/Legal/LAD/Defense-Counsel/>

If you think you may need to speak with an attorney it is best to make an appointment as soon as possible.

DSO Locator: https://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/legal_services_locator_dso.htm

Alternatively, CG-LAD-D may be contacted at HQS-DG-LST-CG-LAD-D@uscg.mil.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Why am I directed to go to a Navy office?

A. The Coast Guard partners with the Navy to ensure our members receive the best possible advice and counsel. DSO attorneys are fully qualified to provide answers to any military justice question you may have. There are also Coast Guard attorneys assigned to each Navy DSO region and the DSOs communicate with Defense Services for service specific matters.

Q. Do I need to be formally charged with a crime before contacting a defense attorney?

A. NO. If you are concerned that you may need to talk to an attorney, then you should contact the Navy DSO to schedule an appointment.

Q. Are my communications with a military defense attorney confidential?

A. YES. If you are speaking with a defense attorney your communications cannot be disclosed without consent. Defense attorney's should discuss the scope of this privilege at the start of any initial conversation.

Q. What rights do I have regarding making statements?

A. If you are suspected of misconduct, then any attempt to interview you should begin with the investigator informing you of the suspected specific violation. They will also inform you of your right to remain silent and right to speak with an attorney prior to making a statement. Even if you are not read your rights, you may still talk to a defense attorney prior to making a statement. It is strongly encouraged you seek legal advice with a DSO if you have questions.