

SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL

USCG SVC Program - Quick Reference Sheet

Who?

USCG active duty members, reservists*, retirees, dependents, and civilian employees may request an SVC.

*In most cases.

When?

As soon as a report of a sex-related offense is made - Restricted OR Unrestricted - or any time after it is made.

What?

SVCs are attorneys that provide advice, advocacy, and empowerment for victims, making their voices heard through the investigation and legal process.

How?

You can contact an SVC directly or through a SARC. See contact information below.



An Overview

Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) are CG attorneys that are provided to survivors of sexual assault. As a survivor, you have been granted specific rights; it is the SVC's sole responsibility to ensure those rights are not violated. SVCs do not work for your CO/OIC, or for your commander's legal staff. *They work for you.*

When an SVC represents you, all communications between you and your SVC are private and confidential.

SVCs help communicate your choices to your commander, supervisors, medical providers, or anyone you give consent for your SVC to speak with.





Victims' Core Rights

- **To Protection** - to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- **To Notice** - to receive reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of specific legal proceedings.
- **To Attend** - to attend any public proceeding unless otherwise determined by a judicial officer.
- **To be Heard** - to be reasonably heard at specific legal proceedings.
- **To Confer** - to confer with the government concerning legal proceedings.
- **To Restitution** - to receive restitution as provided in law.
- **To Expedience** - to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.
- **To Dignity** - to be treated with fairness and respect for your dignity and privacy.

Additional Information on Services

SVCs can also help with:

- ◆ Maintaining privacy - with regards to information you want to remain private, such as to mental health records or your past sexual conduct.
- ◆ Coordinating access to resources, including a SARC, VA, FAS, medical provider, or Chaplain, as authorized individuals to whom you may make disclosures.
- ◆ Requesting an expedited transfer out of your current unit, a waiver to weight policies, sick leave, or no-fault disenrollment from "A" School.
- ◆ Being with you for investigatory interviews (including CGIS), and obtaining copies of statements you've made to investigators.
- ◆ Advising you about misconduct that may have occurred around the time of the sexual offense.
- ◆ Understanding and representing your interests throughout the military justice process and at all proceedings.



For more information on the Coast Guard's Special Victims' Counsel Program, the military justice system, or victims' rights, please contact us (information below).