

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?

Contact a SARC, VA, FAS (for dependents), or SVC directly (see information below).



An Overview

Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) are CG attorneys that represent victims of sex-related offenses. Victims have been granted specific rights by law; the SVC ensures these rights are not violated.

SVC do not work for the command; *they work for the victim*. All communications between an SVC and the victim are privileged.

SVC advise victims on their options and communicate on their behalf with commanders, supervisors, medical providers, CGIS and legal personnel.





Victims' Rights

- *To be reasonably protected from the accused.*
- *To receive reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of specific legal proceedings.*
- *To attend any public proceeding.*
- *To be reasonably heard at specific legal proceedings.*
- *To confer with the government concerning legal proceedings.*
- *To receive restitution as provided in law.*
- *To proceedings free from unreasonable delay.*
- *To be treated with fairness and respect for dignity and privacy.*

Additional Information on Services

SVCs also assist victims with the following:

- ♦ Maintaining privacy with regards to information, such as mental health records or past sexual conduct.
- ♦ Coordinating access to resources that maintain confidentiality, including a SARC, VA, FAS, medical provider, or Chaplain.
- ♦ Requesting expedited transfers, waiver of weight policies, sick leave, unrated time, no-fault disenrollment from "A" School, or MPOs.
- ♦ Representing the victim at investigatory interviews (including CGIS), and obtaining copies of statements made to investigators.
- ♦ Advising victims about misconduct that may have occurred around the time of the sexual offense.
- ♦ Representing victims' interests throughout the military justice process and at all proceedings.

