



FORT SILL LEGAL ASSISTANCE



THE SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL (SVC) PROGRAM

What is a Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)? An SVC provides legal assistance and representation in the military justice process to eligible survivors of qualifying sex-related offenses. An SVC serves to develop a survivor's understanding of the military justice process, protect the survivor's rights, and empower the survivor to fully participate in the process if he or she so chooses.

Who is eligible for SVC services? If you are a survivor of a qualifying sex-related offense and fit into one of the following categories, you may qualify for SVC services through the Fort Sill Legal Assistance Office:

- Active Duty Soldier;
- Family member of a Soldier (with military ID);
- ROTC Cadet on contract;
- DoD Civilian employee; or
- Other categories of individuals who are eligible for legal assistance may also qualify for SVC services

If you are a Reserve or National Guard Soldier, you may qualify for services under your component's SVC program. However, if you are a Reservist or National Guard Soldier on active duty orders for more than 30 days, you may qualify for an active duty SVC. If you are an Army Family member sexually assaulted by a member of another branch of the Armed Forces, you may also qualify for SVC services through the other branch. If you fit into one of the categories above, an SVC can represent you as long as the military has jurisdiction over the alleged offender for the commission of that offense.

Even if you do not qualify for SVC services, you may still qualify for assistance by a Legal Assistance Attorney. For questions about eligibility and available services, please contact us today.

Are communications with an SVC confidential? SVC are attorneys and, as such, are bound by rules of confidentiality. With limited exceptions, what a survivor/client tells his or her SVC will remain entirely confidential unless the client gives his or her attorney permission to share those communications.

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This Information Paper provides only basic information and is not intended to serve as a substitute for personal consultation with a Legal Assistance Attorney. To schedule an appointment with a Legal Assistance Attorney, please contact the Legal Assistance Office at (580) 442-5058. The Fort Sill Legal Assistance Office is located on the 4th Floor of Building 4700 (Welcome Center) at 4700 Mow-Way Road, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.