

Introduction

Victims' Counsels (VCs) are experienced military attorneys who represent **you** in the process of reporting a sexual assault or qualifying sexual or domestic violence offense, represent you throughout the investigation process, and assert your rights in the military justice process.

A VC is bound by the strictest rules of confidentiality. With very limited exceptions, a VC cannot share confidential information that a client provides without the client's permission.

Victims' Rights

A victim has the right to:

- Be protected from the accused (e.g., NCO/MPO/CPO)
- Be timely notified of proceedings
- Be present at any public hearing or proceeding related to the offense
- Be reasonably heard
- Confer with the prosecuting attorney
- Receive restitution
- Proceedings free from unreasonable delay
- Be informed in a timely manner of any plea agreement, separation-in-lieu-of-trial agreement, or non-prosecution agreement relating to the offense
- Be treated with fairness and with respect for the dignity and privacy of the victim

Your VC can:

- Ensure that your voice and choices are heard
- Advocate for your concerns
- Act in your expressed interest
- Provide **confidential** legal advice
- Protect your rights & interests
- Advise you on the investigation and prosecution process
- Represent you at law enforcement and legal interviews, hearings, & military trials

Independent

- Your VC works for you and will serve you
 - Not your commander
 - Not the Accused's commander
 - Not the Air Force
- Your VC's chain of command is independent from every base chain of command.

United States Air Force Victims' Counsel



**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB
VICTIMS' COUNSEL OFFICE**

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Useful Numbers

Wright-Patterson Victims' Counsel Office:
937-522-3333

WPAFB SARC:
937-257-7272 (24/7)
937-689-2154 (Text Enabled)

WPAFB Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate:
937-257-4608
937-265-0022 (Emergencies; 24/7)

WPAFB Family Advocacy Program:
937-257-4608

**DoD Safe Helpline 24/7
Crisis & Support Line**
877-995-5247

**Center for Sexual Assault
Survivors**
757-599-9844

24/7 Crisis Hotline:
757-236-5260
www.visitthecenter.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
988

Types of Reports

⇒ **Restricted Reporting**

- Allows you to confidentially disclose the sexual assault to specifically identified individuals without triggering an investigation or notification to command.
- Allows access to medical care, counseling, victim advocate, Victims' Counsel, and additional resources.

⇒ **Unrestricted Reporting**

- The SARC, Command, and AFOSI will be notified and an investigation may be initiated (report is not confidential).
- Allows access to medical care, counseling, a victim advocate, Victims' Counsel, and additional resources.

You can convert a Restricted Report to an Unrestricted Report, but once a Report becomes Unrestricted, the Restricted option will no longer be available.

Guidelines for Reports

⇒ To make a **Restricted** report, you may **ONLY** contact the following:

- SARC
- Victim Advocate
- Victims' Counsel

⇒ To make an **Unrestricted** Report, you may contact:

- Victims' Counsel
- SARC
- Victim Advocate
- Healthcare Personnel
- Law Enforcement
- Chain of Command
- Legal Office