



# Legal Briefs

From the Fort Knox Legal Assistance Office

---

---

## SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL

### What is an SVC?

An SVC is a licensed attorney who represents the legal interests of an eligible victim of sexual assault

### Who is eligible?

Anyone eligible for legal assistance can receive SVC services. Specifically, Active Duty, Reserve and Guard in an Active Duty status (although there are special Reserve and Guard SVCs who have priority over these clients), and Retirees in certain circumstances, and the dependents of all of the above. Cadets can potentially qualify for services depending on the circumstances.

A person must make a restricted or unrestricted report of sexual assault under the UCMJ (Article 120, 125\*, and 80) (Article 125 has been removed from the updated version of the UCMJ by the Military Justice Act of 2016, but might show up for a couple more years in certain cases depending on the facts). These offenses include rape, sexual assault, and unwanted sexual contact.

### What kind of services does an SVC provide?

- Explain reporting options
- Work as a team with VA, SARC, FAP, VWL to address concerns and goals
- Provide legal consult regarding services available
- Represent victims during investigation
- Provide legal consult regarding potential collateral misconduct
- Represent victim's rights during the justice process to include: helping your voice be heard; being represented at proceedings and hearings; representing victims following court proceedings with post-trial, clemency, and/or parole; assist in drafting impact statements
- Provide traditional legal assistance

If you have any questions concerning these matters, please contact the Fort Knox SVC at 703-347-4219; or the Legal Assistance office at 502-624-2771

---