

How do SVCs help victims of sexual assault?

SVCs provide legal assistance to victims throughout the court martial or administrative action processes that may occur after a victim reports a sexual assault. A SVC's participation during the court martial or administrative action can be as limited or as broad as the victim desires. SVCs may also provide legal assistance to victims after the case has been decided or disposed of on issues that are directly related to the sexual assault.

SVCs attend interviews, hearings and proceedings with the victim and communicate with investigators, prosecutors, defense counsel, commanders and other military personnel on behalf of the victim. SVCs can also assist victims with filing expedited transfer requests, military protective orders, or civilian protective orders. Although legal representation by a SVC in a civilian court is not authorized under this program, SVCs may assist the victim with these matters as permitted by state law.

SVCs often assist victims with filing Line of Duty claims or appealing Line of Duty decisions. SVCs ensure that clients have access to medical services, mental health services and other resources concerning the client's welfare, such as state and federal victim compensation and restitution programs, civilian humanitarian agencies, and rape crisis centers.

Victims may obtain civilian counsel at their own expense for legal services that the SVC is unable to provide, but the SVC can also provide referrals to civilian organizations to assist the client with those legal needs.

National Guard SVC Services Eligibility Chart

Victim Status at the Time of the Incident	Regional NG SVC Representation
NG member on T10	Yes
NG member on T32	Yes
NG member on SAD	National Guard Nexus
NG member not in a duty status	National Guard Nexus
Dual-status Technician	National Guard Nexus
Non-dual status Technician (No NG membership)	National Guard Nexus
Civilian (No NG membership)	No
Contractor (No NG membership)	No
Active Duty (No NG membership)	No
Dependent of NG member	Yes, if either the Service or the National Guard has jurisdiction over the alleged perpetrator

NOTE: Your NG Regional SVC can provide answers to any additional questions you may have.

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What is a Special Victims' Counsel?

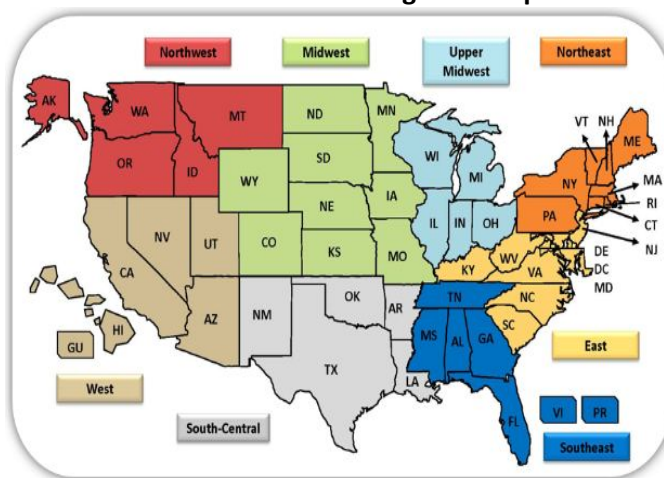
A National Guard SVC is a judge advocate with specialized training to provide legal representation to Air National Guard and Army National Guard sexual assault victims who are eligible for SVC assistance. Please see the eligibility chart found in this pamphlet.

SVCs are authorized by law to enter into attorney-client relationships with the victim and advocate for the victim's rights and interests within the National Guard and other DoD agencies. The scope of a SVC's representation is governed by State, Federal, and Service ethics rules and also the Chief of National Guard Bureau SVC Instruction and Manual. The SVC Program Staff within the National Guard Bureau's Office of the Chief Counsel provides policy and functional oversight.

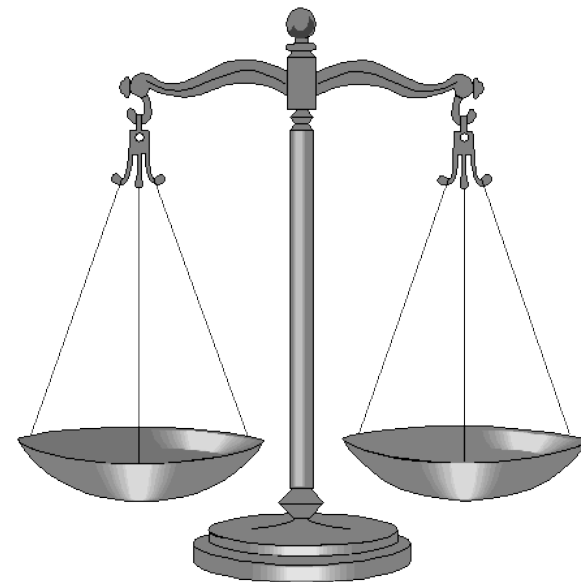
Who do we represent?

A SVC's sole responsibility is to his or her client, the victim. Regional SVCs are removed from the command and supervisory chains that govern the State National Guard Judge Advocates to ensure zealous and independent representation of their clients.

National Guard SVC Regional Map



NATIONAL GUARD SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL PROGRAM



National Guard Bureau Office of the Chief Counsel SVC Program Staff

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NOTIFICATION OF NATIONAL GUARD SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL SERVICES

I, _____ (SARC) have advised
_____ (Client) of his/her right to consult with a Special
Victims' Counsel (SVC) provided by the government at no cost.

I have informed _____ (Client) that the SVC's mission is to provide clients with confidential legal representation related to issues that may arise as a result of being sexually assaulted. The SVC may provide the following services:

- Legal representation and advocacy on issues related to the criminal or administrative disposition of the sexual assault (e.g., attending interviews with military investigators and military trial/defense counsels, drafting victim impact statement, etc.)
- Referral to Trial Defense Service or Area Defense Counsel for collateral misconduct, if necessary
- Advice to client on personal civil legal affairs that have a direct nexus to the sexual assault
- Assisting client in filing an expedited transfer request, military/civilian protection order and obtaining records related to the sexual assault investigation or case disposition
- Traditional legal assistance services

I have notified the client that he/she may speak with a SVC and elect representation at any time during the legal, medical, or investigative process. At this time (initial in the applicable blank):

___ The Client wants to speak to a SVC.

___ The Client does not want to speak to a SVC. However, if he/she changes his/her mind at a later time, he/she has been notified that he/she can contact the SARC/VA or the SVC number listed below for SVC services. He/she has also been provided a copy of this memorandum.

(Signature of Client)

(Date)

(Signature of SARC/VA)

(Date)

You may contact the National Guard Regional SVC directly at the following number:

(Insert Name and Telephone Number)