

### Your Rights As A Victim.

In addition to your right to assistance from a Special Victim Counsel, you have the following rights in any courts-martial:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy;
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender;
- The right to be notified of court proceedings;
- The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines that your testimony would be materially affected if you as the victim heard other testimony at trial;
- The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case;
- The right to available restitution;
- The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender.

It is important for you to know that even if you have filed a restricted report, you are still entitled to SVC services and the opportunity to learn about the legal process and your rights as a victim.

### If You Need Additional Assistance:

Please contact the Special Victims' Counsel:

CPT Adam Harper

(706) 545-3834

Adam.e.harper2.mil@army.mil

**In regard to other assistance available, contact the command Victim/Witness Responsible Official, or:**

Mrs. Laura Grant

Special Victims' Prosecutor

Victim/Witness Liaison

(706) 545-1574

Laura.grant.civ@army.mil

In regard to the prosecution, contact the legal office below:

Special Victims' Prosecutor

MAJ Morghan. Beaudoin

730-861-3447

morghan.e.beaudoin.mil@army.mil

For further information on crime issues, see the DoD Victim and Witness Assistance Council web page at <http://dod.mil/vwac>.

## Special Victim Counsel Program



**INFORMATION  
FOR  
VICTIMS OF RAPE  
AND  
SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Fort Benning,  
Georgia

**706-545-3834**

## **What is a Special Victim Counsel?**

Special Victims Counsel (SVC) are legal assistance attorneys who have received special training and are designated by the Staff Judge Advocate as SVCs.

An SVC's role is to zealously represent you. Based on your decisions, the SVC will represent your best interests even if it does not align with those of the government of the United States or with those of the accused.

An SVC's primary duty is to you and no other person, organization, or entity.

SVC will work to empower you by fostering your understanding of the military justice process and providing you with legal assistance. The SVC will also assist in the coordination of applicable programs and services available to you. This will be accomplished by providing effective and timely advice, being available to assist throughout the entire military justice process, and providing appropriate advocacy to ensure that the rights you are entitled to are fully realized.

The mission of the SVC is to provide you with confidential legal representation related to issues that may arise as a result of being sexually assaulted.

The Army and SVCs are concerned about the problems experienced by sexual assault victims. We understand that as a victim, you may experience anger, frustration, or fear as a result of your experience. We also understand that the reporting process and following courts-martial can be difficult. The SVC at Fort Benning can help you through this process.

## **Special Victim Counsel Services**

- Accompany and advise you during interviews, examinations, hearings, and court-martial proceedings
- Represent you in court-martial proceedings as permitted by law
- Referral to Trial Defense Service for collateral misconduct, if necessary
- Advocate your interest with Government counsel on disposition options
- Assist you with post-trial submissions to include victim impact statements
- Advise you on collateral civil issues arising from the crime
- Provide legal assistance services as needed
- Answer any questions that you may have about the courts-martial process

## **Attorney-Client Confidentiality**

Your privacy and confidentiality are extremely important to your SVC. With limited exceptions, your SVC cannot share with anyone information you provide without your express permission. Your SVC may discuss your case with supervising attorneys and paralegals assisting in your case, but will do so only in furtherance of the representation of your interests. In such cases, the same rules of confidentiality will apply.

## **Who is entitled to an SVC?**

1. Active duty Army
2. Army Reserve (active at time of offense)
3. Army National Guard (ARNG) in a Title 10 status or Title 32 > 30 days
4. Adult and minor child dependents of 1-3 above (capacity of child to understand may be assessed)
5. If the suspect is a US Army Soldier:
  - a. Active duty other services
  - b. Other services' reserve personnel if active at time of offense
  - c. Adult dependents of a-b above
  - d. Minor children of a-b above \*\*
  - e. Air National Guard under same standards of ARNG
  - f. Any ARNG
  - g. Army Reserve (Inactive duty for training)
  - h. DOD civilian employees and their adult dependents when assigned OCONUS
  - i. Foreign military assigned to US and their adult dependents