



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION  
AND RESPONSE OFFICE**

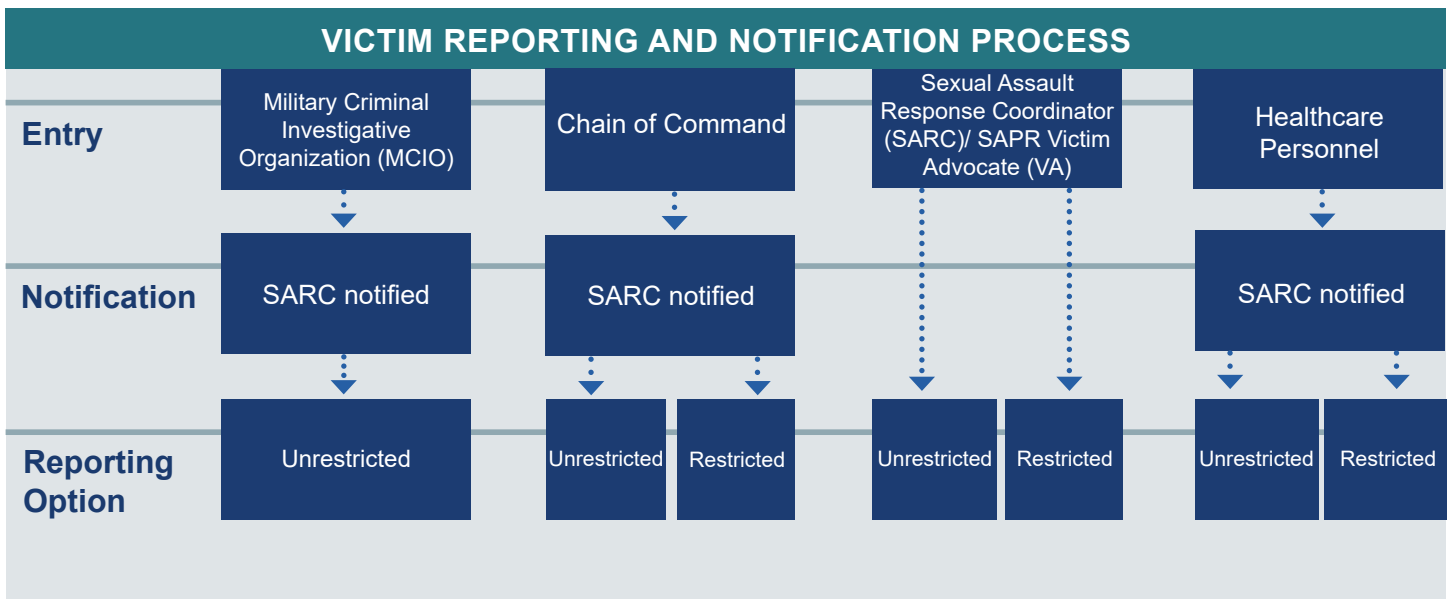


# Victim Reporting Options Guide

Deciding whether to report a sexual assault is a deeply personal decision. However, reporting can be a gateway to recovery. The Department's Restricted and Unrestricted reporting options allow Service members who experienced sexual assault to exercise control over how and when they engage with resources.

DoD's response services include:

- Confidential access to a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate (SAPR VA), regardless of reporting option selected
- Support from highly trained personnel, including Medical and Mental Healthcare providers, your own lawyer (Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)/ Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC)/ Victim's Counsel (VC)), and Chaplains
- Professional investigative and legal response from personnel, specially trained to work with victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse
- A variety of support, recovery and safety options, including Expedited Transfer, Military Protective Order, Catch a Serial Offender Program, Case Management Group reviews and updates, and victim safety assessments
- 24/7, worldwide, anonymous and confidential support at Safe Helpline – a specialized, secure online service that provides help and information anytime, anywhere. Find more information at [safehelpline.org](https://www.safehelpline.org).



Criminal investigators and command officials will be notified when an Unrestricted Report is made.

## CARE & RECOVERY SERVICES

After an incident of sexual assault, those affected can seek many of the same care and recovery services

Available Services for Unrestricted Reporting Option	Available Services for Restricted Reporting Option
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SAPR Advocacy Services</li> <li>■ Health Care</li> <li>■ Mental Health Care</li> <li>■ Forensic Exam (if indicated)</li> <li>■ Spiritual Support</li> <li>■ Command Response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ SAPR Advocacy Services</li> <li>■ Health Care</li> <li>■ Mental Health Care</li> <li>■ Forensic Exam (if indicated)</li> <li>■ Legal Consultation &amp; Representation through SVC/VLC/VC</li> <li>■ Investigation</li> <li>■ Prosecution</li> <li>■ CATCH Program for certain Unrestricted Reports</li> </ul>

## Service members and their adult military dependents have two reporting options

### REPORTING OPTION

# 1

### UNRESTRICTED REPORT

An **Unrestricted Report** allows you to receive health care and mental health care, advocacy services, and legal support. As part of this option, DoD law enforcement initiates an investigation and your chain of command is notified. You have the right to be reasonably protected and may also be eligible for other protections, including a Military Protective Order and/or a civilian protective order. You may also be eligible for an Expedited Transfer. This option allows you to report any retaliation related to your report.

### REPORTING OPTION

# 2

### RESTRICTED REPORT

A **Restricted Report** allows you to receive SVC/VLC/VC legal advice, healthcare, mental healthcare, and advocacy services, but does not trigger an investigation. Information will be provided to Command that does not reveal your identity, nor that of the alleged offender.

Only these professionals can accept a Restricted Report:

- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)
- SAPR VA
- Healthcare providers, mental healthcare providers, and their support personnel, to include ER intake and medics



### Catch a Serial Offender (CATCH) Program

The CATCH program gives victims of sexual assault who filed Restricted Reports, certain Unrestricted Reports where the name of the suspect is not reported to or uncovered by law enforcement, or no report an opportunity to anonymously submit suspect information to help the DoD identify serial offenders.

Find more information at [www.sapr.mil/catch](http://www.sapr.mil/catch)

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

### Dedicated Response Resources

Professionals are available everywhere the military operates to help connect victims of sexual assault with information and resources:

# 1

### Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)

An installation resource who provides confidential support and coordinates care for a victim of sexual assault throughout the investigation and recovery process.

# 2

### SAPR Victim Advocate (VA)

An advocate who provides one-to-one confidential support, education, and resources to a victim of sexual assault under the supervision of the SARC.

# 3

### Military Chaplain

Priests, ministers, and other religious clergy can provide confidential spiritual advice and counseling to a victim of sexual assault. While Chaplains cannot take reports of sexual assault, they can put you in touch with a SARC or SAPR VA if you so request.

# 4

### Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiner (SAMFE)

A specially-trained medical professional who can conduct a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) and address medical concerns associated with sexual assault.

# 5

### Special Victims' Counsel (SVC)/ Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC)/ Victims' Counsel (VC)

A military attorney who provides victims with confidential legal advice, representation, and assistance with exercising their rights throughout the investigative and justice process. Communications with these attorneys are protected and cannot be shared with anyone. Victims may consult with an SVC/VLC/VC prior to making a report. This is your personal lawyer, not the prosecutor or defense attorney.

# 6

### Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution Capability

Criminal investigators, prosecutors, and other legal support personnel who work together and are specially-trained to assist victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse.

For more information, please visit [sapr.mil](http://sapr.mil);

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or [safehelpline.org](http://safehelpline.org)