If you have concerns about your child's behavior, the Department of Defense offers a range of resources and services you can use to encourage healthy boundaries and interactions with others.

The Family Advocacy Program can connect you to:

- Clinical assessments, counseling and support
- Military Treatment Facility pediatric, family medicine and behavioral health providers
- Education for parents about what sexual behaviors are developmentally appropriate
- Crisis management resources
- Child advocacy centers
- TRICARE services
- Specialized counseling or treatment services

You can also request support from other Department of Defense programs:

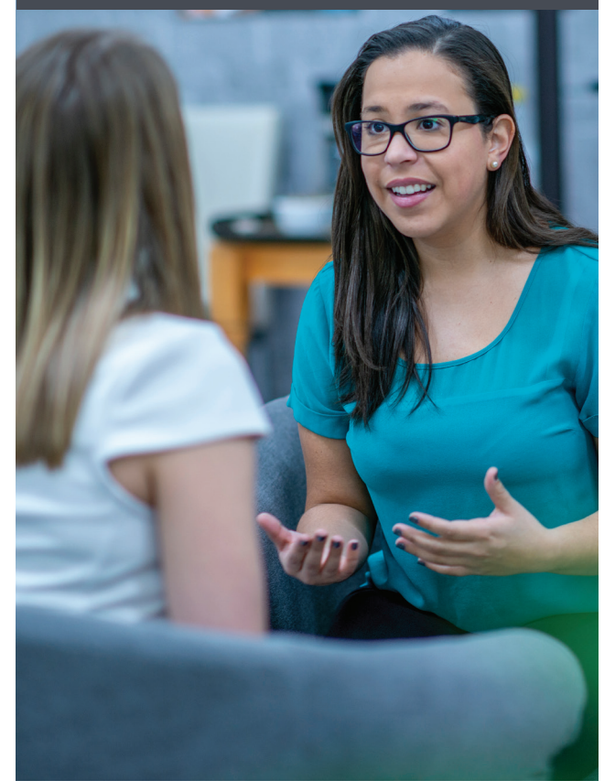
- The Military and Family Life Counseling Program provides short-term, non-medical counseling support at military installations.
- Military OneSource can also refer you to community-based, short-term non-medical counseling.

MILITARY ONESOURCE

To learn about healthy sexual development and find resources for addressing unhealthy behaviors, visit **www.militaryonesource.mil/healthy-sexual-behaviors-in-children**

Responding to Concerning Sexual Behavior

The Process for You and Your Child



This brochure outlines the process that the Department of Defense follows when there's a report of a child demonstrating sexual behavior that may be harmful — to that child or others. It explains the range of support the Family Advocacy Program can provide and when different military and civilian programs might be involved.

Here's what happens:

A report of concerning sexual behavior occurs, parents are notified and the Family Advocacy Program is engaged.

The Family Advocacy Program, or FAP, reviews the referral with its source to determine whether the behavior warrants additional assessment.

Whether the incident happened at a Department of Defense Education Activity school, Child and Youth Program, Child Development Center or elsewhere, FAP coordinates the response.

A FAP representative will connect with you to offer guidance and support for next steps.

If the behavior warrants additional assessment:

A multidisciplinary team is engaged to coordinate service and support.

In addition to FAP, the multidisciplinary team may include the Child and Youth Program, Department of Defense Education Activity schools and the Military Criminal Investigative Organization, or MCIO.

The multidisciplinary team may determine a child-focused assessment is needed.

If the child-focused assessment is recommended:

Your FAP representative will work with you to obtain a child-focused assessment to understand and address your child's needs.

A FAP clinical provider will guide you through the assessment, offer support throughout the process and make sure that you and your child are connected to the appropriate resources and support.

If additional action is needed:

If the report involves behavior that meets the threshold for an investigation according to local laws, the Military Criminal Investigative Organization or civilian law enforcement agency conducts an investigation, which could include:

- Medical assessments
- Interviews with others who may have been involved
- Evidence collection and forensic interviews

Remember:

Most children and youth who demonstrate concerning sexual behaviors respond well to informed parent support, increased guidance and supervision and evidence-based treatment programs. In fact, after these interventions, there are usually no further incidents.

If child safety is a concern

If the behavior occurred in the home, or involved siblings or other related children, the team may be required by law to notify Child Protective Services or the appropriate overseas child welfare agency.

If the behavior creates a risk for the community or co-occurs with child abuse and neglect or domestic abuse, the chain of command is notified.

Your FAP representative, as well as members of the multidisciplinary team, are committed to supporting you and your child throughout this process.