



## Domestic Abuse Reporting Options

### Military Community and Family Policy

#### Background

The Department of War encourages victims to report domestic abuse to help connect them to resources and support services. Reporting also provides the opportunity for the alleged abuser to take personal responsibility for their behaviors, receive treatment and be held accountable if any disciplinary actions are needed.

The DOW takes a victim-centered approach that recognizes each individual's unique circumstances, readiness and preferences. Individuals are supported in choosing the level of care that best meets their needs at any point in the process.

Some may choose to involve command and law enforcement, while others may choose a restricted reporting option that focuses on advocacy, counseling and medical care, if needed. A one-size-fits-all approach may discourage individuals from accessing available services and resources.

To promote access to care, the DOW Coordinated Community Response offers restricted and unrestricted reporting options, as reflected in DOD Instruction 6400.06. The reporting options listed below provide a victim with informed consent to empower them when deciding their best course of action.

#### Program highlights

Restricted reporting allows adult victims of domestic abuse to seek advocacy through the Family Advocacy Program, with referrals, as needed, to medical providers — including supervisors who provide medical care — and chaplains, without mandatory notification to command or law enforcement.

Restricted reporting is intended to support access to care and inform decision-making by allowing individuals to seek support at their own pace.

Restricted reporting is available when there has been no prior notification to command or law enforcement and when there is no immediate risk of harm to the victim. This option is not available for incidents involving child abuse or neglect, or for unmarried civilian intimate partners.



Advocacy services include:

- Assessment of the risk and development of a personalized safety plan
- Referral with a warm handoff to medical care and other support services
- Information about the installation's response to a domestic abuse report, including how members from the coordinated community can support and assist with resourcing
- Information about obtaining and enforcing civilian and military protection orders
- Information about the CATCH program for sexual abuse victims

**Unrestricted reporting** provides victims of domestic abuse with the opportunity for an official investigation of an incident. Victims who choose to make an unrestricted report are entitled to the same supportive services as those making restricted reports, with the exception of the CATCH program. Additionally, the victim will be provided the following victim advocacy services and resources:

- Assistance in making a report to law enforcement, command and/or FAP, and a warm handoff, when possible
- Assistance with obtaining civilian and military protection orders
- Assistance in obtaining benefits in the military and civilian communities, when eligible
- Referral and coordination with the Victim Witness Assistance Program
- Referral to specialized services through the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Victim Legal Counsel or Office of the Special Trial Counsel, when eligibility requirements are met

## Eligibility

Reporting options are available to active-duty service members and their spouses, activated National Guard and reserve members and their spouses, and other victims involved in adult domestic abuse or intimate partner abuse incidents who are eligible for services at military treatment facilities.

Limited reporting options are available for unmarried, military-connected civilians. Reach out to the nearest FAP office to answer questions about your reporting options at <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/resources/tools/domestic-abuse-victim-advocate-locator/>.



### **Program availability**

Domestic abuse reporting options are available worldwide.

### **Additional information**

Contact information for installation FAP offices and domestic abuse victim advocates is available through MilitaryINSTALLATIONS.