



## Domestic Abuse Reporting Options Military Community and Family Policy

### Background

The Department of Defense encourages victims to report domestic abuse incidents promptly so they can receive support services and offenders can be held accountable for their actions. The DOD recognizes, however, that some victims may prefer not to involve command or law enforcement and that being obligated to do so might prevent them from receiving the support and services they need. To promote access to care and remove obstacles to getting help, DOD Instruction 6400.06, "Domestic Abuse Involving Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel," provides victims of domestic abuse with two reporting options, which are listed below.

### Program highlights

**Restricted reporting** allows adult victims of domestic abuse to disclose the details of their abuse to Family Advocacy Program domestic abuse victim advocates, health care personnel and supervisors in order to receive medical treatment, counseling and victim advocacy services without mandatory notification of command or law enforcement. Victim advocacy services include:

- Assessment of safety and assistance in developing a plan to prevent further abuse
- Assessment of medical needs and referral to medical care
- Information about the installation's response to a report of domestic abuse, including what commanders can do to protect and assist victims under the military disciplinary system
- Information about obtaining and enforcing civilian and military protective orders
- Appropriate rehabilitative and support services

**Unrestricted reporting** provides victims of domestic abuse with an official investigation of an incident. A victim of domestic abuse who makes an unrestricted report of domestic abuse may receive the victim advocacy services listed above, as well as the following:

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# Domestic Abuse Reporting Options Paper

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- Assistance in making a report to law enforcement, FAP and the commander
- Assistance with obtaining civilian and military protection orders
- Referral and coordination with the Victim/Witness Assistance Program
- Assistance in obtaining benefits in the military and civilian communities
- Advocacy and specialized services through the office of the staff judge advocate

## Eligibility

Reporting options are available to active-duty members and their spouses, activated members of the National Guard and reserves and their spouses, and any other victims involved in adult domestic abuse incidents.

## Program availability

Domestic abuse reporting options are available worldwide to victims of domestic abuse.

## Additional information

Contact information for installation [FAP offices](#) or for [victim advocates](#) can be found on [MilitaryINSTALLATIONS](#).

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