

How do SVCs help victims of sexual assault?

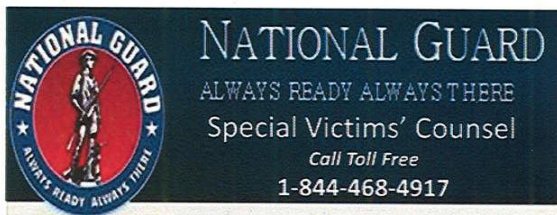
SVCs provide legal assistance to victims throughout the court martial or administrative action processes that may occur after a victim reports a sexual assault. A SVCs participation during the court martial or administrative action can be as limited or as broad as the victim desires. SVCs may also provide legal assistance to victims after the case has been decided or disposed of on issues that are directly related to the sexual assault.

SVCs attend interviews, hearings and proceedings with the victim and communicate with investigators, prosecutors, defense counsel, commanders and other military personnel on behalf of the victim. SVCs can also assist victims with filing expedited transfer requests, military protective orders, or civilian protective orders. Although legal representation by a SVC in a civilian court is not authorized under this program, SVCs may assist the victim with these matters as permitted by state law.

SVCs often assist victims with filing Line of Duty claims or appealing Line of Duty decisions. SVCs ensure that clients have access to medical services, mental health services and other resources concerning the client's welfare, such as state and federal victim compensation and restitution programs, civilian humanitarian agencies, and rape crisis centers.

Victims may obtain civilian counsel at their own expense for legal services that the SVC is unable to provide, but the SVC can also provide referrals to civilian organizations to assist the client with those legal needs.

NOTE: Your NG Regional SVC can provide answers to any additional questions you may have.



What is a Special Victims' Counsel?

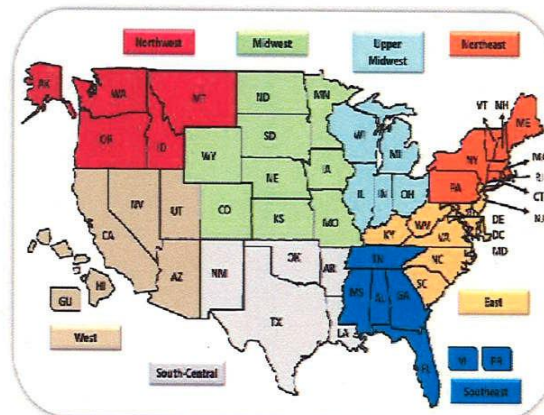
A National Guard SVC is a judge advocate with specialized training to provide legal representation to Air National Guard and Army National Guard sexual assault victims who are eligible for SVC assistance. Please see the eligibility chart found in this pamphlet.

SVCs are authorized by law to enter into attorney-client relationships with the victim and advocate for the victim's rights and interests within the National Guard and other DoD agencies. The scope of a SVC's representation is governed by State, Federal, and Service ethics rules and also the Chief of National Guard Bureau SVC Instruction and Manual. The SVC Program Staff within the National Guard Bureau's Office of the Chief Counsel provides policy and functional oversight.

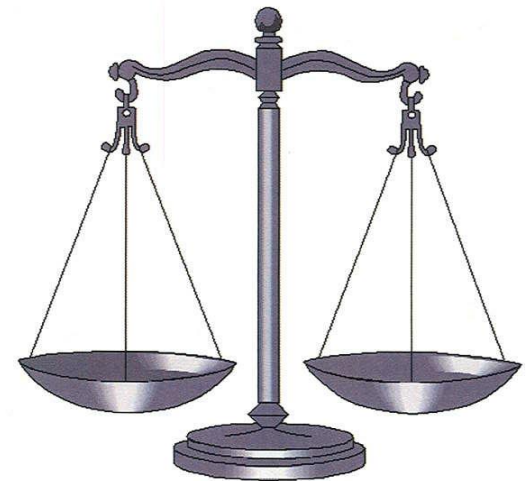
Who do we represent?

A SVC's sole responsibility is to his or her client, the victim. Regional SVCs are removed from the command and supervisory chains that govern the State National Guard Judge Advocates to ensure zealous and independent representation of their clients.

National Guard SVC Regional Map



NATIONAL GUARD SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL PROGRAM



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