



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



TOPIC: ADDITIONAL VICTIM RESOURCES

JULY 2024

Topics from Deputy Secretary of Defense Memo, "Updates to Department of Defense Policies to Enhance Support for Adult Sexual Assault Victims," signed May 2024. Available at www.sapr.mil/latest-policy-updates.

Paragraph 4, Policy DoDI 6495.02, Volume 1, as follows:

Requires inclusion of information on the availability of Department of Veterans Affairs resources and the inclusion of the availability of legal resources from civilian legal service organizations. It also requires the publicizing of information for non-DoD providers near each military installation.

Availability of Veterans Affairs Resources

am. The [DD Form 2910, "Victim Reporting Preference,"](#) shall include information for Department of Veterans Affairs resources as required by law. In accordance with section 599 of the [Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) and section 538 of the [Fiscal Year 2021 NDAA](#), information on services for trauma associated with the sexual assault at the Department of Veterans Affairs will be included in annual mandatory training materials for SARCs and SAPR VAs.

SARCs and SAPR VAs shall provide the following notifications to victims when filling out the DD Form 2910.

(1) In accordance with section 599 of the [Fiscal Year 2020 NDAA](#) and section 538 of the [Fiscal Year 2021 NDAA](#), SARCs and SAPR VAs are directed to advise Service members who report a sexual assault of services for trauma associated with the sexual assault at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) In accordance with section 538 of the [Fiscal Year 2021 NDAA](#), at the time of filling out the DD Form 2910, the SARC and SAPR VA will ask if the Service member is separating or retiring from the Military Services. If so, they will provide contact information for the Department of Veterans Affairs Military Sexual Trauma Coordinators nearest to the Service member's residence for healthcare resources and for disability claims. This contact information will appear in the [DD Form 2910, "Victim Reporting Preference."](#)

an. In accordance with section 538 of the [Fiscal Year 2021 NDAA](#), the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Chief, NGB, shall direct installation commanders and commanders in comparable locations to post information regarding services furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sexual assault victims in each area in which sexual assault prevention staff normally post notices or information, and in high-traffic areas (including dining facilities).

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QUESTION: Where do these Department of Veterans Affairs resources appear on the DD Form 2910?

On page 3, question #12, which reads:

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12. Department of Veterans Affairs Information	
Pls. Initial:	
	A. I was advised that as a current Service member, I am eligible for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services for military sexual trauma (MST). Information on VA's MST-related services for current and former Service Members is available at http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/mst .
	B. Read below to get information on how the VA can help you with medical and mental health care and, if you are interested in filing a disability claim.
	(1) Medical and mental health care: I was advised that every VA health care facility has a Veterans Health Administration (VHA) MST Coordinator who can assist me in accessing MST-related medical and mental health care, and information is available at: http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/vha-mst-coordinators.asp .
	(2) Benefits and Disability claims: I was advised that for help with disability claims related to MST, I can contact the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) MST Outreach Coordinator at my local VBA Regional Office, and information is available at: www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp .
	C. I am retiring or separating from the Armed Forces: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	(1) If yes, I have been provided the name and contact information of the VHA MST Coordinator nearest to my residence to get MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH care information, see below: (List of VHA MST Coordinators by state is available at: http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/vha-mst-coordinators.asp . VHA Website only provides the name and phone number of POC.
	_____ (name of MST Coordinator)
	_____ (phone)
	(2) If yes, I have been provided the name and contact information of the VBA MST Coordinator nearest to my residence to get BENEFITS/DISABILITY CLAIMS information, see below: (List of VBA MST Coordinators by state is available at: http://www.benefits.va.gov/benefits/mstcoordinators.asp . VBA Website only provides the name and the email of the POC.
	_____ (name of MST Coordinator)
	_____ (email).

Availability of Legal Resources

ao. In accordance with section 549C of the [Fiscal Year 2023 NDAA](#), the Secretaries of the Military Departments and Chief, NGB, shall provide information on the availability of legal resources from civilian legal service organizations in accordance with applicable law and DoD regulations relating to non-federal entities.

[The link to available civilian legal resources appears on the DD Form 2910 and is also available on Safe Helpline]

Information on Non-DoD Providers

*ag. Installation commanders (and **equivalents**) and commanders in comparable locations, will direct that "Reporting Options for Adult Victims of Sexual Assault" be posted in high-traffic locations (including dining facilities). Posted information will include:*

(7) Assistance available, including contact information for non-DoD providers near each military installation and/or military community under their authority, consistent with DoD regulations and law regarding non-federal entities.

Will DoD Civilian employees be offered a job transfer after reporting sexual assault? What referrals are available through the workplace violence prevention and response program? Are cases that have a DoD Civilian employee who signed a DD Form 2910-8 discussed at the monthly CMG?

Please see DoDI 6495.02, Enclosure 4. SARCs should consult with their respective human resources offices for information regarding civilian employment.

Why must a victim file a Restricted Report for a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Kit? Why would a SAPR-Related Inquiry (SRI) Entry be sufficient for a SAFE Kit?

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A victim has to officially report the sexual assault either through a DD Form 2910 in the SAPR Program or directly to law enforcement. Evidence cannot be collected and retained without an official report.

Is there a direct hire authority for the Sexual Assault Response Workforce (SARW)?

On August 12, 2024, the Department authorized the use of direct hiring authority for hiring of the SARW personnel. This authority remains in effect until September 30, 2027, unless terminated earlier in writing.

What is Section 536?

Section 536 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 preempts state laws that require disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) of the adult sexual assault victim or suspect to local or state law enforcement, except when reporting is necessary to prevent or mitigate a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of an individual.