

Why Restricted Reporting?

Domestic abuse often goes unreported in society at-large. Although the victim's decision to report the incident is a crucial step toward holding the offender accountable following a domestic abuse incident, it can have potential serious consequences such as:

- Jeopardizing the safety and welfare of the victim and other family members
- The abuse may recur and escalate
- Impacting the family's financial stability

A system that affords victims access to medical and victim advocacy services without immediate command or law enforcement involvement can encourage victims to feel more comfortable and safe about reporting domestic abuse.

Restricted Reporting

In cases where an adult victim elects restricted reporting, the victim advocate and/or healthcare providers may NOT disclose covered communications to either the victim's or offender's commander or to law enforcement either within or outside the DoD. Restricted Reporting includes oral, written or electronic communication of personally identifiable information related to a domestic abuse incident made by a victim for the purposes of receiving medical care or information, referral to service providers, advice or safety planning. Those authorized to receive a Restricted Report are victim advocates, the supervisor of victim advocates or to a healthcare provider including Family Advocacy Program (FAP) staff.

Restricted reporting is intended to give adult victims additional time, while benefiting from receiving relevant information and support, to make more informed decisions about reporting the domestic abuse incident to the appropriate commanders and possibly participating in a criminal investigation. Restricted reporting allows an adult victim of domestic abuse to disclose the details of his/her abuse to specifically authorized individuals and receive medical treatment and victim advocacy services without requiring that notice be provided to the alleged offender's commander or law enforcement.

Unrestricted Reporting

Victims of domestic abuse who want to pursue an official investigation of an incident can contact WPAFB law enforcement, the active duty member's chain of command, law enforcement or FAP staff. Remember, if the victim reports domestic abuse to a victim advocate, the supervisor of a victim advocate or a healthcare provider, including FAP staff, they have a choice between Restricted/Unrestricted Reporting. If at any time, law enforcement, command or other entities become aware of the domestic abuse incident, it automatically becomes Unrestricted. Upon notification of a reported domestic abuse incident, victim advocacy services and FAP clinical services will be offered to the victim. Additionally, at the victim's discretion/request, the healthcare provider shall conduct any forensic medical examination deemed appropriate. Details regarding the incident will be limited to only those personnel who have a legitimate need to know.