



VLCs ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

VLCs can help you understand and navigate the military justice process.

- **Free** – No cost advice.
- **Independent** – VLC do not work for your command, the offender's command, the defense, or the prosecution.
- **Confidential** – All communications with the VLC are confidential.
- **Experienced** – VLC know the military justice system, and are trained and certified to provide victims advice.

VLCs ARE WORLDWIDE

VLCs are located at all major fleet concentration areas and many outlying installations. If you PCS or move, it is up to you if you want to retain your original VLC or transfer to a local VLC.

NOT SURE?

Call your local office for a free, confidential consultation about how a VLC can help.

There is no obligation – you can decline the service, accept the service, or take some time to think about it. You control the relationship.

Additional information can be found at:
https://www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/vlc.htm



**NAVY
VICTIMS'
LEGAL
COUNSEL**

WHAT IS A VLC?

A Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) is a lawyer who works for you! A VLC will help you through the legal and administrative challenges you may face.

WHO CAN HAVE A VLC?

Victims of sexual offenses and/or domestic violence, including:

- Rape
- Sexual Assault
- Assault
- Wrongful Broadcast of Intimate Images
- Stalking
- Other qualifying sexual or domestic violence offenses

Victims who are:

- Navy active duty
- Navy reservists
- Navy retirees, other active duty service members, Navy dependents (spouses and children), and some overseas DON civilians **when** the offense is committed by an active duty Navy member

WHEN CAN I GET A VLC?

Anytime. It's never too early or too late in the process!

- Right after the offense.
- Before/during/after the investigation.
- Before or after an Article 32 hearing.

WHY SHOULD I GET A VLC?

- Are you a victim of a sexual offense and/or domestic violence?
- Are you likely to be a participant in a court-martial?
- Do you feel like your concerns are not being heard or your case is forgotten?
- Are you anxious about testifying?
- Are you having trouble working with your command or the Navy?
- Do you want more information about the investigative and legal processes?

HOW DO VLCs HELP?

- VLC are part of an independent chain of command.
- VLC can work with your Victim Advocate (VA), Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Family Advocacy Program (FAP) counselors, and/or other providers as you allow. They also work with Trial Counsel, the Convening Authority, and your command to ensure your rights are upheld.
- VLC assist you in understanding the military justice system, explaining every step of the process to ensure you can make informed decisions. Throughout the process, VLC advocate for your rights and preferences along the way.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A VICTIM

In addition to your right to assistance from a VLC, you have the following rights as a crime victim:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy.
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused.
- The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of public hearings on the continuation of pretrial confinement of the accused; Article 32 hearings; court-martial proceedings; public clemency and parole board hearings; and the release or escape of the accused, unless such notice may endanger the safety of any person.
- The right to reasonably confer with the attorney for the government in any of the above proceedings.
- The right not to be excluded from any public hearing or proceeding, unless the military judge or investigating officer determines after receiving clear and convincing evidence that your testimony would be materially altered.
- The right to be reasonably heard at public hearing on the continuation of pretrial confinement of the accused; sentencing hearings; and public clemency and parole board hearings.
- The right to receive restitution as provided in law.
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay.