



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OFFICE



Convalescent Leave After Sexual Assault

DoD encourages warfighters to report sexual assaults as a means to better understand and access available resources. Convalescent leave is available to Service members who file an Unrestricted Report or Restricted Report. For Restricted Reports, convalescent leave may be approved by a military treatment facility (MTF) commander or director, as they are able to maintain confidentiality of the report as healthcare personnel. Convalescent leave is non-chargeable, meaning that it does not count against regular military leave.

Convalescent leave is associated with a medical diagnosis and may begin immediately following release from a medical facility, completion of a sexual assault forensic examination (SAFE), or completion of an appointment with a medical or mental healthcare provider after a sexual assault is reported. The amount of convalescent leave is determined on an individual basis as recommended by the healthcare provider.

To request assistance with convalescent leave:

*If you filed an **Unrestricted Report**, talk to:*

- Medical or mental healthcare provider
- SARC
- Special Victims' Counsel/ Victims' Legal Counsel/ Victims' Counsel
- Your commander

*If you filed a **Restricted Report**, talk to:*

- Medical or mental healthcare provider
- SARC
- Special Victims' Counsel/ Victims' Legal Counsel/ Victims' Counsel

Do I need to request convalescent leave to go to regular medical or mental healthcare appointments, or to go see my SARC?

No. Under existing policy and procedures, commanders should allow members to attend, in normal duty status during normal duty hours, any scheduled medical or non-medical appointments, services, or counseling related to their sexual assault incidents in order to support recovery. These activities are the appointed place of duty for personnel.

Is there a limit on the amount of convalescent leave I can request?

Convalescent leave approved by a commander or MTF director may range from one to 30 consecutive days. Convalescent leave exceeding 30 days may require special approval. However, the amount of convalescent leave granted may be much shorter than 30 days, depending on your medical diagnosis and your provider's recommendation.

For more information about convalescent leave and other military leave, see DoDI 1327.06, "Leave and Liberty Policy and Procedures."

For more information, please visit sapr.mil.

For confidential victim assistance, call or visit the DoD Safe Helpline at 877-995-5247 or safehelpline.org.