



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

**UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

DEC - 7 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND  
RESERVE AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Eligibility for Adult Sexual Assault Victims in Unmarried Intimate Partner Relationships to Receive Services from either the Family Advocacy Program or the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

In the newly-updated Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6400.06, "DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel," the definition of "intimate partner" was expanded to now include a broader category of individuals in unmarried intimate partner relationships, for example "dating" relationships. The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program has and will continue to offer services to adult sexual assault victims in this same category of "dating" relationships. As a result of the expanded definition, some adult sexual assault victims are eligible for, and can choose to receive, services from either the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) or the SAPR Program.

FAP will offer services to all adult intimate partner (to include "dating" partner) sexual assault victims under the new definition. The SAPR Program will continue to offer services both to all adult sexual assault victims who are non-intimate partners and to adult sexual assault victims who are unmarried intimate partners (to include "dating" partners) when they are NOT:

1. a current or former spouse;
2. person with whom the alleged abuser shares a child in common; or
3. a current or former intimate partner with whom the alleged abuser shares or has shared a common domicile.

FAP will continue to provide services exclusively to those individuals in the three aforementioned categories.

FAP and SAPR personnel must ensure that an adult sexual assault victim who is seeking services will never encounter a "wrong door" to getting the care and support they need, and are eligible for, or a warm hand-off to, such services or resources. In accordance with my October 13, 2021 memorandum, "Guidance for Implementing Tier 1 Recommendations of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military," FAP or SAPR personnel will provide all adult sexual assault victims seeking assistance with an appropriate initial acknowledgment, such as "I can hear that you are hurting, I will help get you the assistance you need." A warm hand-off (direct connection, introduction, and follow through) will then be arranged between the adult sexual assault victim and the appropriate service provider or

program. SAPR personnel authorized to use the Defense Sexual Assault Incident Database (DSAID) will utilize the "SAPR Related Inquiry (SRI) Module" in DSAID to document these referrals. FAP personnel will document this referral in their appropriate Service case management system.

Please disseminate this new guidance to FAP and SAPR personnel immediately. The updated definition of "intimate partner" should be addressed in the next reissuances of DoD Manual 6400.01, Volume 2, "Family Advocacy Program (FAP): Child Abuse and Domestic Abuse Incident Reporting System," and DoDI 6495.02, Volume 2, "Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program Procedures." The DoD point of contact for the updated intimate partner definition is Kathleen Chiarantona, OSD FAP, at [kathleen.h.chiarantona.civ@mail.mil](mailto:kathleen.h.chiarantona.civ@mail.mil). Thank you for your continued efforts in preventing and responding to domestic abuse and sexual assault.



Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.

cc:  
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Chiefs of the Military Services  
Superintendents, Military Service Academies  
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