

September Convening Factsheet: Legal

DID YOU KNOW?

- Legal assistance staff are located on almost every base, ship and installation.¹
- In 2017, 71% of households with veterans or other military personnel had at least 1 legal problem, 21% whom experienced 6+ problems.²
- In 2017, low income-veterans and military personnel received inadequate or no professional legal help for 88% of their civil legal problems.²
- The top 3 civil legal problems low income veterans & military personnel sought legal help for were health, consumer and finance, and employment.²
- Legal guidance provided by staff is free of charge to eligible personnel regardless of branch of service.³

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ON BASE SERVICES?³

- Spouses of active personnel
- Reservists
- National Guard (30 days or more active duty) & family members
- Retired personnel & dependents
- Survivors of eligible service members & retirees
- Certain overseas civilian employees & family members

QUALIFIED LEGAL MATTERS⁴

- Powers of Attorney
- Will & Estate Planning
- Family Care Plan
- Family Law
- Immigration & Naturalization
- Consumer Issues
- Tax Assistance
- Landlord-Tenant Disputes

UNQUALIFIED LEGAL MATTERS⁴

- In court representation
- Serious criminal matters
- Claims against government
- If legal problem involves costs/fees
- Private owned business matters
- Citations for driving under the influence

Referrals are available to pro bono (free) lawyers or drop-in legal clinics to assist with unqualified legal matters by military legal assistant offices.

RESOURCES/SERVICES AVAILABLE IN SAN DIEGO

- Office of Military & Veterans Affairs (https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa/programs/ais/veterans_services/)
- San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Project (<https://www.sdvlp.org/>)
- USD – Veterans Clinic (<https://www.sandiego.edu/veterans-clinic>)
- Community Law Project (<https://www.cwsl.edu/clinics-and-programs/community-law-project>)
- Legal Aid Society of San Diego (<https://www.lasds.org/area/free-clinics>)

Figure 6: Reasons for Not Seeking Legal Help³⁸



Retrieved from Legal Services Corporation

1. <https://www.military.com/benefits/military-legal-matters/legal-assistance-and-jag/family-legal-assistance.html>
2. <https://www.lsc.gov/media-center/publications/2017-justice-gap-report>
3. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_services/milvets/aba_home_front/information_center/working_with_lawyer/information_about_lawyers/military_legal_assistance/civil_matters/#q4
4. <https://www.militaryonesource.mil/financial-legal/legal/other-legal-issues/12-situations-where-you-can-get-free-legal-help?inheritRedirect=true>

