

**JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SET # 6**

**131. (Update to JPP RFI 28) Services: Does your Service require certification of SVCs? If so, what is required to be certified? If not, what training and/or experience are required to be eligible to serve as an SVC?**

**a. Are there practice limitations or oversight requirements for SVCs who serve clients prior to SVC training or certification?**

<b>USA</b>	<p>It is Army policy that all Army SVC must successfully complete an SVC Certification course and be officially certified by The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) of the Army prior to serving in the SVC role. In addition to maturity and judgment, SVC should have criminal law experience.</p>
<b>USAF</b>	<p>There is no change to the Air Force response to JPP RFI 28. 10 U.S.C § 1044e(d)(1)(b) requires that all judge advocates be certified as competent by TJAG to be designated SVCs. Only judge advocates who have certified competent, nominated and vetted through the “best qualified” selection process, and approved for assignment to the SVC position by TJAG can perform SVC services. See also RFI 111b.</p> <p>All Air Force SVCs must have attended an SVC course (either Army or Air Force) prior to representing clients or as soon as practicable thereafter. All current SVCs completed the SVC adult certification course prior to representing adult clients. Only those SVCs who have completed the SVC child certification course are permitted to represent child clients. Those SVCs who have not attended the SVC child certification course will attend the next offering of the course and will not represent child clients until completing that course.</p>
<b>USN</b>	<p>Yes. All Navy VLC must successfully complete specialized Victims’ Legal Counsel training executed by one of the military services prior to perform duties as a VLC. In addition, each VLC must be certified by the Navy JAG.</p> <p>Yes. When VLC training is not immediately available to reporting VLC, counsel work directly with practicing VLC, COS or DCOS until their attendance at an official certification course is completed and they are eligible for certification by the JAG. In 2015, only one VLC reported for duty prior to completing the required training.</p>
<b>USMC</b>	<p>The USMC VLC Manual requires that all VLC be certified before they can represent a sexual assault client.</p> <p>Not applicable. The USMC VLC Manual requires that all VLC be certified before they can represent a sexual assault client.</p>
<b>USCG</b>	<p>In addition to being a member of a the bar of a federal court or of the highest court of a State, all CG SVC must successfully complete a SVC certification course offered by one of the sister services and be officially certified by the Judge Advocate General of the CG to act as an SVC.</p> <p>Yes. A SVC cannot represent a client on their own without first meeting the training requirements explained above. If an attorney reports in and is unable to attend the next sister service SVC certification course, that attorney will work as an assistant SVC, pairing with an experienced SVC, until they are officially certified by TJAG. Those SVCs who have not been specifically trained and certified to represent children cannot do so until that training is obtained.</p>

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**b. Are there Service rules or other guidance for how long an SVC may take clients prior to receiving SVC training or certification?**

<b>USA</b>	N/A
<b>USAF</b>	See RFI 131(a) above.
<b>USN</b>	Yes. Newly reporting VLC must attend a certification course prior to independently representing clients.
<b>USMC</b>	Not applicable. The USMC VLC Manual requires that all VLC be certified before they can represent a sexual assault client.
<b>USCG</b>	See response to a. above. This is spelled out in the draft SVC Instruction currently awaiting approval through the concurrent clearance process.