§ 635.28 Procedures for restricted/unrestricted reporting in sexual assault cases.

Active duty Soldiers, and Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers who are subject to military jurisdiction under the UCMJ, can elect either restricted or unrestricted reporting if they are the victim of a sexual assault.

(a) Unrestricted reporting. Unrestricted reporting requires normal law enforcement reporting and investigative procedures.

(b) Restricted reporting requires that law enforcement and criminal investigative organizations not be informed of a victim’s identity and not initiate investigative procedures. The victim may allow Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARC), health care providers (HCP), or chaplains to collect specific items (clothing, bedding, etc.) that may be later used as evidence, should the victim later decide to report the incident to law enforcement. In sexual assault cases additional forensic evidence may be collected using the “Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit,” NSN 6640–01–423–9132, or a suitable substitute (hereafter, “evidence kit”). The evidence kit, other items such as clothing or bedding sheets, and any other articles provided by the HCP, SARC, or chaplain will be stored in the installation Provost Marshal/Director of Emergency Services’ evidence room separate from other evidence and property. Procedures for handling evidence specified in AR 195–5, Evidence Procedures, will be strictly followed.

(c) Installation Provost Marshals/Directors of Emergency Services will complete an information report in COPS for restricted reporting. Reports will be completed utilizing the offense code from the 6Z series. An entry will be made in the journal when the evidence kit or property (clothing, bedding, etc.) is received. The journal entry will be listed using non-identifying information, such as a generic identifier. An entry will not be made in the blotter. Restricted reporting incidents are not reportable as Serious Incident Reports. Property and the evidence kit will be stored for one year and then scheduled/suspended for destruction, unless earlier released to investigative authorities in accordance with the victim’s decision to pursue unrestricted reporting. Thirty days prior to destruction of the property, a letter will be sent to the SARC by the Provost Marshal/Director of Emergency Services, advising the SARC that the property will be destroyed in thirty days, unless law enforcement personnel are notified by the SARC that the victim has elected unrestricted reporting. Clothing, the evidence kit, or other personal effects may be released to the SARC for return to the victim. The information report will be updated when the evidence is destroyed, or released to investigative authorities.

(d) In the event that information about a sexual assault that was made under restricted reporting is disclosed to the commander from a source independent of the restricted reporting avenues or to law enforcement from other sources, but from a source other than the SARC, HCP, chaplain, or Provost Marshal/Director of Emergency Services, the commander may report the matter to law enforcement and law enforcement remains authorized to initiate its own independent investigation of the matter presented. Additionally, a victim’s disclosure of his/her sexual assault to persons outside the protective sphere of the persons covered by the restricted reporting policy may result in an investigation of the allegations.

§ 635.29 Domestic violence and protection orders.

(a) Responding to incidents of spouse abuse requires a coordinated effort by law enforcement, medical, and social work personnel, to include sharing information and records as permitted by law and regulation. AR 608–18 contains additional information about domestic violence and protective orders.