

Understanding the Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP) Process for a Child Abuse or Neglect Report

Introduction: The Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP) is dedicated to helping Soldiers and Families with the complex challenges related to child abuse or neglect. Our focus is on prevention, education, intervention, and treatment to mitigate risk and support safe and healthy families. As part of our on-going effort to ensure the safety and well-being of our military children, the FAP would like to provide parents and caregivers useful information about the process following a child abuse or neglect allegation and available resources for the family.

What happens after a report of child abuse or neglect is made: The response to child abuse and neglect is a coordinated response that sometimes includes collaboration between military and civilian agencies. Civilian or military law enforcement may investigate the report as well as civilian child welfare service agencies.

When the FAP receives a report of child abuse or neglect involving a military family the assessment process is initiated by a FAP Clinician. FAP will assess family risk and safety concerns, and identify educational, support and treatment service needs. A Victim Advocate may provide additional services such as, information regarding available resources and safety planning. Victim Advocates do not provide direct services to children, but can assist an adult non-offending parent or caregiver.

FAP Support and Resources:

FAP staff are available to you throughout the entire process and can address any issues or concerns that you may have regarding the incident involving your child. Please call your assigned FAP Clinician if you have any questions.

FAP Clinician _____

Below are additional resources for you and your family.

- Military Treatment Facility pediatric, family medicine and behavioral health providers as needed to meet the needs of you and your family

- Victim Advocate _____
- Specialized counseling or treatment services in the civilian community

- Crisis management resources _____
- Child Advocacy Centers _____
- TRICARE services _____
- Victim legal counsel and legal assistance _____
- Transitional Compensation, when eligible _____

Family Advocacy Program Process

FAP receives a referral for a reported incident of child abuse or neglect.

FAP reviews referral to determine if there is a reasonable suspicion of child abuse or neglect and also determines eligibility for FAP services.

Meets reasonable suspicion

FAP incident is opened and notifications are made to local child protective service agencies, law enforcement, and the command as required.

Does not meet reasonable suspicion

FAP services are offered or referrals to other agencies may be provided to support your family.

A FAP Clinician initiates an assessment and helps guide the family through military and civilian support systems.

Services are offered to eligible children and adults, and referrals are provided if additional support is needed.

You will receive notification regarding the date the incident will be reviewed at the Incident Determination Committee.

FAP will continuously monitor family risk, safety and support services and continue helping your family until the incident is