

Prevention and Response to Child Abuse and Neglect in the Navy



Family Advocacy Program Support and Resources

The Family Advocacy Program (FAP) can provide advocacy services to parents of children who have experienced abuse and neglect. Services also include case management, counseling and treatment, including support groups.

The Family Advocacy Program can refer and connect you to:

- Military Treatment Facility pediatric, family medicine and behavioral health providers as needed to meet the needs of you and your family
- Specialized counseling or treatment services in the civilian community, as needed
- Crisis management resources
- Child Advocacy Centers
- TRICARE services
- Victim legal counsel and legal assistance
- Transitional Compensation for Abused Dependents Program, when eligible

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The Navy is committed to responding to and preventing all future incidents of child abuse and neglect in our families. Our children are our most valuable asset – we all have a responsibility to protect them and provide support to their caregivers.

Military life can be challenging with its long hours, deployments, separations and frequent moves, putting our families at risk for child abuse and neglect. There are many programs and services available to support families through these difficulties.

The Navy's Fleet and Family Readiness programs, including the Family Advocacy Program, are designed to strengthen families and increase individual resiliency. The FAP's goal is to promote healthy relationships through prevention, identification and treatment of abuse and neglect via counseling, case management and educational groups. Treatment and groups services focus on increasing positive parenting techniques, supporting family relationships and strengthening stress management skills.

When FAP receives a referral of child abuse or neglect involving a military family, FAP's clinical case managers and advocates are available to help guide caregivers and family members through the military and civilian support systems that have responded to the reported incident.

The FAP Process

FAP receives a referral for child abuse or neglect.

FAP screens for reasonable suspicion of abuse and eligibility for FAP services.

Meets criteria

Does not meet criteria

FAP case opened. Notifications will be made to local Child Protective Services*, law enforcement and the command, as required.

Services are offered to you, or referrals to other agencies may be provided.

* With respect to child abuse, FAP may differ from a case substantiation decision made by a civilian Child Protective Services (CPS) agency. Such differences may occur because the DoD criteria that define child abuse are different from the criteria used by the civilian CPS agency.

FAP advocacy services are offered for eligible caregivers, including safety planning.

When FAP receives a referral of child abuse or neglect involving a military family, FAP's clinical case managers and advocates are available to help guide caregivers and family members through the military and civilian support systems that have responded to the reported incident.

You will be notified regarding the date your case will be reviewed at the Incident Determination Committee and the Clinical Case Staffing Meeting.

Individual and group counseling services for eligible children and adults are offered. Referrals may be provided for supportive service depending on the needs of you and your family.

FAP monitors risk and safety needs, services provided and progress toward treatment goals. FAP staff will make contact with you and other helping agencies involved with your family until your case is closed.

Additional information on the FAP process is available from FAP staff.

If you have any questions about your child's case, please contact your FAP case manager.