

Grissom ARB Legal Office Fact Sheet

Grissom Air Reserve Base Legal Office provides legal advice and expertise on a full-spectrum of legal issues, including military justice, adverse administrative actions, operations, ethics, civil, environmental, labor, and contract law. Primarily, this involves providing commanders, first sergeants, and supervisors with the advice and recommendations needed to best evaluate options and properly resolve complex issues and foster good order and discipline. This also includes providing free legal assistance on personal civil litigation matters to eligible beneficiaries. The legal advice provided ensures forces can focus on the mission.

Those eligible for legal assistance: Air Force personnel who need mobilization- or deployment-related legal assistance, regardless of status (these members take first priority); members who are on active duty, including Reservists and National Guard members while on Title 10 orders and for a brief period after active duty orders have ended; Reserve Component members performing Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) tours; former members entitled to retired pay; and dependents of members and former members who are entitled to an identification card.

Legal assistance services: Wills; powers of attorney -- both special and general; advance medical directives, including living wills and medical powers of attorney; notary services; documents related to family care plans; veterans' reemployment rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA); managing civil obligations under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA); certain consumer issues, such as bankruptcy, consumer fraud, and identify theft; certain landlord-tenant issues; certain federal, state, and local tax problems, including reviewing IRS letters and advising on responding to audits; general information regarding family law matters; and assistance to military members' next of kin related to benefits and privileges after a casualty.

Areas upon which legal assistance attorneys cannot advise: Official matters in which the Air Force has an interest; criminal issues; Law of Armed Conflict issues; issues involving personal commercial enterprises; legal issues or concerns raised on behalf of third parties; issues related to the sale of real estate; preparation of pleadings or motions, real estate or closing documents, and separation agreements or divorce decrees; and representation in court or administrative proceedings.

Legal Assistance Website: A few years ago, a legal assistance website was launched to help us serve you better. You can find it at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. The website offers short information papers on common legal assistance topics. Specifically helpful with will preparation, the site also allows you to complete an online legal worksheet prior to your visit to the legal office.

Scheduling a Legal Assistance Appointment: To schedule a legal assistance appointment at Grissom Air Reserve Base, please call (765) 688-2190. Legal assistance by a Judge Advocate is available, by appointment only, every Tuesday from 0900-1100 and Thursday from 1300-1500; notary services and powers of attorney are available on a walk-in basis. Legal assistance is also available on a walk-in basis during UTA weekends from 1330-1530 on Saturdays and 0900-1100 on Sundays. Please note that legal assistance cannot be given over the phone (because we cannot confirm your eligibility).

Other helpful contacts: The Area Defense Counsel (ADC) provides free, confidential advice to Airmen facing adverse administrative action or who are suspected of committing an offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; Air Force members can speak with an ADC by calling (937) 257-7841 (Wright-Patterson AFB ADC) for matters related to military justice, or (478) 327-4911 (Robins AFB ADC) for matters related to discharge. The Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) provides legal support to victims of sexual crimes; if you would like to speak with an attorney, then please call (618) 256-4891 (Scott AFB SVC). Finally, the Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) provides guidance to victims and witnesses of crimes under the UCMJ to make sure they receive the information and assistance they deserve; to speak with the VWAP Coordinator, please call (765) 688-2190 (Grissom JA) and ask to speak with someone about VWAP.

The information provided in this article is for educational and general information purposes only. It is not legal advice. We recommend speaking with a licensed attorney before relying on the information contained within to make a decision or take any action.