

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT



If you or someone you know has experienced domestic abuse or sexual assault, resources are available to support you or a loved one in need.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse is a pattern of behavior resulting in physical, emotional, or psychological abuse, economic control, or interference with personal liberty that is directed toward an intimate partner. Domestic abuse can be physical, emotional, sexual, or neglect.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is an offense involving the use, attempted use, or threatened use of force or violence against a person or a violation of a lawful order issued for the protection of a person who is an intimate partner.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

Although the definitions can overlap, there are some key distinctions. Domestic violence is the criminal act of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse is the actual behavior. Victims of domestic abuse can experience sexual assault or sexual abuse within their relationship. However, a sexual assault can occur outside of an intimate relationship.

RESOURCES:

Help is available if you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in a relationship. You can receive assistance through the Family Advocacy Program (FAP). FAP provides non-medical counseling, safety planning, and other supportive services. Everyone deserves to be in a relationship that is free of abuse. Additional information regarding domestic abuse can be found at usmc-mccs.org/domestic.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program (SAPR) can help. The SAPR program provides services to all adult sexual assault victims who are non-intimate partners.

For further information, please contact your local Substance Abuse Counseling Center or visit usmc-mccs.org/substance