



MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA

MARKER EVIDENCE DECISION TREE

Clear, trauma-informed guidance for building an accurate VA disability record.

CURRENT VA GUIDANCE

START WITH THE RECORD

FOUR POINTS TO UNDERSTAND

1

IS THERE A DIRECT RECORD?

If yes, identify it. If no, continue to alternative sources and behavior changes.

2

WHO OBSERVED A CHANGE?

Family, roommates, service members, clergy, counselors, or others may have firsthand knowledge.

3

WHAT CHANGED?

Connect each record or statement to a specific change and approximate timeframe.

4

DOES THE MEDICAL EVIDENCE ADDRESS IT?

A qualified clinician may interpret whether evidence indicates a personal assault occurred.

An official report is not the only way to support an MST-related claim. Evidence is evaluated under the rules applicable to the condition and claim.

