

**UNITED STATES CODE
TITLE 10. ARMED FORCES
SUBTITLE A--GENERAL MILITARY LAW
PART II--PERSONNEL
CHAPTER 53--MISCELLANEOUS RIGHTS AND BENEFITS**

Section 1044. Legal assistance.

(a) Subject to the availability of legal staff resources, the Secretary concerned may provide legal assistance in connection with their personal civil legal affairs to the following persons:

- (1) Members of the armed forces who are on active duty.
- (2) Members and former members entitled to retired or retainer pay or equivalent pay.
- (3) Officers of the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service who are on active duty or entitled to retired or equivalent pay.
- (4) Dependents of members and former members described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(b) Under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary concerned, the Judge Advocate General (as defined in section 801(1) of this title) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary is responsible for the establishment and supervision of legal assistance programs under this section.

(c) This section does not authorize legal counsel to be provided to represent a member or former member of the uniformed services described in subsection (a), or the dependent of such a member or former member, in a legal proceeding if the member or former member can afford legal fees for such representation without undue hardship.

(d) The Secretary concerned shall define "dependent" for the purposes of this section.

End.