

Talking to Service Members About Consumer Protections

Help service members protect their financial futures by building awareness and understanding about their consumer rights.

The **Servicemembers Civil Relief Act** limits, postpones or suspends many financial and civil obligations for service members on active duty. This includes reducing interest rates to 6% on debt incurred prior to entering active duty, postponing evictions and foreclosures, deferring income taxes, terminating leases, postponing civil court matters and more.

The **Military Lending Act** protects active-duty service members, military spouses and their dependents from predatory lending acts by capping interest rates, fees and charges on credit products at 36%. Unlike the SCRA, the MLA only covers debts incurred while on active duty.

Resources

- The Office of Financial Readiness:
<https://finred.usalearning.gov/>
- SCRA website:
<https://scra.dmdc.osd.mil/scra/#/home>
- Encourage service members to check their credit report at least once per year:
<https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>

How to Start the Conversation

- “Have you ever heard of the SCRA? What about the MLA?”
- “Have I ever told you about how consumer protections helped [me or mutual contact]?”
- “Are you a renter? Do you know what options you’d have for ending your lease if you get orders away from the area?”
- “Have you reviewed your interest rates on your credit cards or loans lately? Do you have any higher than 6%?”
- “Have you taken on any additional debt since becoming active duty?”
- “Did you know the SCRA can help you terminate your car lease or cell phone plan?”
- “Do you know how to request relief under the SCRA?”
- “When’s the last time you checked your credit report?”

- Personal financial managers and counselors can help continue the conversation. Share this contact information for your local PFM or PFC:

- Follow @DoDFINRED on:



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