



## “Sanctuary”

A Domestic Violence Response Initiative  
An Outreach Program of the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office of  
Victim-Witness Advocacy

### What is “Sanctuary”?

Sanctuary is an intensive, interactive **120-hour training program** designed to equip community residents to provide crisis intervention and outreach services to domestic violence related assault, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, property crime victims, as well as survivors of domestic violence-related homicide victims. The course is presented in two formats: basic and advanced. Upon completion of the basic course (**80 hours**) and the advanced course (**40 hours**) volunteers who are members of local churches, mosques, synagogues, municipal police departments and their response teams, social service and emergency agencies, fraternal organizations, and other allied organizations located in greater Essex County will be able to provide immediate, culturally sensitive outreach to domestic violence victims-survivors and their families within a 24-72 hour period.

### Course Topics Include:

**BASIC COURSE:** the nature of catastrophe, assisting underserved victim populations (part I), crisis intervention and crisis counseling, the spiritual dimension of trauma, cultural aspects of criminal victimization, crime victim/legal advocacy, effective communication skills and supportive services, safety planning and threat assessment (part I), ethics and professionalism, value clarification, the effects of trauma on an individual’s developmental stages, the intersection of substance abuse, mental health, and victimization, trauma assessment, local area resources and networks, and the criminal and family court processes. **ADVANCED COURSE:** emerging trends in crime victim advocacy, trauma informed care, trauma bonding, captivity theory, and the science of attraction, the politics of power in intimate relationships, ritualistic abuse, primary aggressor, the topology of battering behavior, social aggression and the bystander effect, the use of technology as a means to stalk and terrorize, intimate partner violence-related workplace violence, working with the media, assisting underserved victim populations (part II), safety planning and threat assessment (part II) and vicarious trauma, spirituality and self-care.

### For More Information:

The basic course (**80 hours**) will begin on **Tuesday, May 18, 2021**. Each class will meet virtually once per week on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm-9:00pm. The advanced course (**40 hours**) will begin in the fall, 2021 on a date yet to be determined. You must complete the basic course or have completed no less than 40 hours of domestic violence training to attend the advanced course.

### Both Courses Are Offered Free of Charge

Application packets are available online at [www.njecpo.org](http://www.njecpo.org) (click on the “What’s New” tab). Please return the application packet with all necessary signatures and notarized to [EssexVW@njecpo.org](mailto:EssexVW@njecpo.org) by **May 10, 2021**. For more information, please call 973.621.4689 during normal business hours or visit our office website at [www.njecpo.org](http://www.njecpo.org).

# OFFICE OF THE ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR

## THEODORE N. STEPHENS, II ACTING ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**ROMESH C. SUKHDEO**  
ACTING FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

**MITCHELL G. McGUIRE III**  
ACTING CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

Dear Prospective Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in the Essex County Prosecutor's Office's Sanctuary Program. Attached you will find general information about the program and an application packet.

The next volunteer training will be presented in two formats: **BASIC** and **ADVANCED**. The **basic course (80 hours)** will begin on Tuesday evening **May 18, 2021** and will meet virtually every week thereafter for three hours, commencing at 6:00pm. The **advanced course (40 hours)** will begin in the fall, 2021 on a date and time yet to be determined. **Please note that you must complete the basic course or have completed no less than 40 hours of intimate partner violence training to attend the advanced course.** Each session will meet. The **BASIC COURSE** will include presentations and interactive exercises on such topics as the nature of catastrophe, assisting underserved victim populations (part I), crisis intervention and crisis counseling, the spiritual dimension of trauma, diversity and cultural aspects of criminal victimization, crime victim/legal advocacy, effective communication skills, ethics and professionalism, the effects of trauma on an individual's developmental stages, local area resources and networks, and the criminal and family court processes. The **ADVANCED COURSE** will include current responses and trends in crime victim advocacy including trauma informed care, trauma bonding, captivity theory, and the science of attraction, the politics of power in intimate relationships, ritualistic abuse, primary aggressor, the topology of battering behavior, social aggression and the bystander effect, the use of technology as a means to stalk and terrorize, intimate partner violence-related workplace violence, working with the media, human trafficking, the use of technology, assisting underserved victim populations (part II), and spirituality and self-care.

The training is a time-intensive but rewarding experience that will prepare you to effectively assist and advocate for victim/survivors of intimate partner assault, sexual assault, child abuse, stalking, trafficking, cyber-crimes, as well as survivors of homicide victims. Class participants include members of local area churches, mosques, synagogues, municipal police departments and their response teams, social service and emergency agencies, fraternal organizations, and other allied organizations located in greater Essex County.

Successfully completing of the training program is not only a way to help those in crisis, but is also an opportunity to join a helping community of dynamic people. Volunteers are invited to participate in subsequent training sessions to further develop their advocacy skills. The work is challenging at times, but the rewards are many, including the opportunity to make wonderful friends.

**Ltr. To Prospective Sanctuary Program Applicant**  
**Spring, 2021**  
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To begin the application process, please complete the attached forms by **May 10, 2021**. I can be reached at 973-621-4689 during normal business hours if you have questions or require additional information.

You can also reach me via email at [EssexVW@njecpo.org](mailto:EssexVW@njecpo.org). Thank you again for your interest in becoming a Sanctuary Program volunteer. I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you into our helping community.

Sincerely,

*Pamela McCauley*

Pamela M. McCauley, Coordinator  
Essex County Prosecutor's Office  
Victim-Witness Advocacy Unit

NOTE: Due Date for Application extended to MAY 17, 2021.