



MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE SAFE PLACE



What is the SAFE PLACE PROGRAM?

The SAFE PLACE PROGRAM is a law enforcement-sponsored concept that enhances public education regarding the reporting of bias incidents and hate crimes. The program is an active collaboration between the police, businesses, social organizations and schools, designed to assist in making communities a safer place to live. Any individual who sees the SAFE PLACE logo will know that business, organization, or location will provide a safe space for someone to call 911 for assistance, should they feel unsafe.

This program is for ALL bias incidents or hate crimes targeting an individual for reasons that can include, but are not limited to: race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, national origin, or ethnicity.

Individuals requiring assistance will be treated with care, dignity, and respect from participating businesses, organizations, schools, and from responding police departments. MCPO SAFE PLACE is **not designed for residential use.**

Which Businesses, Social Organizations, and Schools can participate in MCPO SAFE PLACE?

ALL of these entities are able to participate in the MCPO SAFE PLACE PROGRAM, as long as they follow the two requirements listed below. The SAFE SPACE PROGRAM is ZERO COST to businesses, organizations, and participating schools.

What are my responsibilities to join?

Although this is a voluntary concept, there are responsibilities to participate as a MCPO SAFE PLACE. That responsibility is simple, requiring you to train/educate your employees/staff to do two things:

- 1. If a victim of any crime (especially a hate crime) enters your premises, call 911 immediately.**
- 2. Allow the victim to remain on your premises until police arrive.**

If the victim leaves prior to police arrival, call back 911 and provide a physical description of the victim and/or suspect(s), direction of travel, and any injuries that you may have observed. As with any emergency situation, your staff should use due care and caution when providing the victims of a bias incident or crime safe shelter, while being mindful of the safety of your patrons and co-workers, and remaining in compliance with existing organizational policies.

How do I become a MCPO SAFE PLACE Participant?

Simply contact Sgt. Paul Ryba, Community Policing, at pryba@matawanpolice.org or (732) 290-2020 ext. 2608 or the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office at SafePlace@mcponj.org.

Where do I put the MCPO SAFE PLACE Decal?

The SAFE PLACE decal should be placed at the main public entrance, 3-5 feet off the ground and easily visible to anyone walking past your premises. If the location is within a school or organization, it should be placed in a location that would afford the individual needing assistance the ability to seek refuge for authorities to be contacted.

For more information:

Please go to MCPONJ.ORG or send us an inquiry at SafePlace@mcponj.org.

i The SAFE PLACE PROGRAM was developed by the Seattle Police Department to assist victims of Hate Crimes and Student Bullying, and they have approved our use of this initiative in Monmouth County.

