



Dear Prospective Response Team Trainee,

Thank you for your interest in being a Womanspace Response Team Volunteer Advocate.

The Womanspace Response Team Advocates are trained volunteers who respond to police departments and hospitals in Mercer County when a victim-survivor is seeking the assistance of an advocate, law enforcement and/or medical care. Our Response Team Advocates sign up for shifts to be able to provide support to victim-survivors in Mercer County 24/7, throughout the entire year.

All police departments in Mercer County, including the New Jersey State Police, and hospitals in collaboration with Womanspace, have developed a program to better serve victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The role of the Response Team Advocate is to lend support to the victim-survivor and provide information, so they can make educated and informed decisions that are best for themselves, in their particular circumstances.

Similarly, the Mercer County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) initiative was developed to better serve victim-survivors of sexual assault through the collaboration of a three-member team. The presence of the Response Team Advocate complements the roles of the police officer and FNE (Forensic Nurse Examiner) as they focus on their work. Specifically, the advocate provides the victim-survivor with an emotionally supportive presence providing information regarding the SART process, counseling and legal resources for future self-advocacy.

On request, and when available, advocates can also accompany a victim-survivor, as a support person, to other appointments including law enforcement meetings, court and follow-up medical procedures.

All Response Team members receive approximately 64 hours of training conducted over a seven-week period.

In order to accomplish the goals and objectives of these programs, it is necessary for advocates to have the following qualifications:

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of and/or reside within 30 minutes of the Police Stations in Mercer County
- Valid New Jersey Driver's License
- Available transportation
- Willingness to respond to any police department or hospital ER in Mercer County

- **No criminal history**
- **No prior history as a *defendant* in a sexual assault or domestic violence related matter**
- Ability to communicate well with others
- Good listener
- Sensitivity to a victim-survivor's feelings and concerns
- Desire to help others
  - Available to be on-call, **nights and weekends** for *a minimum of two* 6 hour shifts per month
  - Available to complete the initial 64 hour training and participate in monthly supervisory meetings (90 minutes).
- Bilingual individuals and persons fluent in American Sign Language are encouraged to participate in order to assist those victim-survivors who have special language and cultural needs or issues.

Enclosed is an application to become a Womanspace Response Team Advocate. Please complete this application form and return it no later August 30, 2024 to:

**Attn: Varonda N. Kendrick**

Womanspace Inc.

1530 Brunswick Avenue

Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

**Or scan and email the completed application to:**

**[responseteamtraining@womanspace.org](mailto:responseteamtraining@womanspace.org)**

After your application and signed/notarized release is received, we will schedule an in person meeting with you. Please note, if accepted into the training, you will be asked to complete a background check/fingerprint check, prior to, or within two weeks after the start of training. If your background check is returned as unsuitable to our goals, you will be removed immediately from training and will no longer be eligible to be a Response Teams of Mercer County Advocate.

We will begin interviews in August 2024.

You can make an important difference in someone's life. Thank you for your interest in the Womanspace Response Team program.

Yours truly,

**Varonda Kendrick**, Response Team Coordinator/Domestic Violence Victims Representative

**WOMANSPACE RESPONSE TEAMS OF MERCER COUNTY**  
**ADVOCATE RELEASE AUTHORIZATION**

To: All Courts, Probation Departments, Selective Service Boards, Hospitals, Employers, Educational and other Institutions and Agencies without exception.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am making an application to be a Womanspace Response Team Volunteer Advocate. As a result, an investigation is being conducted to determine my eligibility.

Therefore, you are **authorized to release** to the **Trenton Police Department** or its representative all information, documentary or otherwise pertaining to me that they may request.

A photocopy of this authorization will be considered as effective and valid as the original.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public of New Jersey



## RESPONSE TEAM ADVOCATE APPLICATION

Date of Application \_\_\_\_\_

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| Print: Last Name | First | Middle |
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List all names you have used including nicknames. If your name has been legally changed, give date, place and court. Explain use of different names.

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Present Address:

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(Street, City, State, Zip Code) include floor/apt No.

How long have you resided here? \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Cell Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Eye Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of an emergency, whom may we contact (name, phone, relationship?)

\_\_\_\_\_

List in chronological order every place in which you have resided as an adult (within past 5 years).

| FROM | TO | ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE) |
|------|----|-----------------------------------------|
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**\*If there is not enough space to answer a question, please use the back of the page\***

## EDUCATIONAL DATA

Highest level of education (please check one):

High School/GED \_\_\_\_\_

Associates \_\_\_\_\_

Vocational/Technical \_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate \_\_\_\_\_

List your proficiency in any language other than English as "slight", "good", "fluent":

LANGUAGE

SPEAK

UNDERSTAND

READ

WRITE

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## EMPLOYMENT

List your two most recent places of employment:

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Employment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Womanspace is a non-profit organization. Part of how we are able to provide excellent services to our victim-survivors is through donations from corporate sponsors. Understanding and respecting the privacy of all volunteers, please choose one of the following options:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Womanspace to contact my employer for donations and if asked, it is ok to disclose that I am a volunteer with the agency.

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Womanspace to contact my employer for donations; however, please **do not** disclose that I am a volunteer with the agency.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer that my employer **is not** contacted

## REFERENCES

Give one professional and two personal references (e.g.: from a current/former employer, a former teacher, close friend or neighbor) from people who have known you during the past five (5) years. Please alert your references to expect an email from [dvvert@womanspace.org](mailto:dvvert@womanspace.org) or [sass@womanspace.org](mailto:sass@womanspace.org).

1. Complete Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Years Acquainted: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address (Please Print Clearly): \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Phone Number to Use (if email is unavailable): (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Complete Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Years Acquainted: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address (Please Print Clearly): \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Phone Number to Use (if email is unavailable): (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Complete Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Years Acquainted: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address (Please Print Clearly): \_\_\_\_\_  
Best Phone Number to Use (if email is unavailable): (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## COURT RECORD

Were you ever summoned or subpoenaed to a court in a civil action or proceeding, including any incidences of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Restraining Orders, in NJ or elsewhere?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate every civil action or proceeding in which you were summoned or subpoenaed, or in which you were a party

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Have you ever been arrested and charged with any criminal violation?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes", give date, place, charge, disposition and details:

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Have you ever been arrested, charged, or summoned with any offense including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault, disorderly persons offenses, (i.e., public intoxication, D.U.I.), Township Ordinance, as an adult or as a juvenile?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes", give date, place, charge, disposition and details:

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Do you have any prior involvement or experience with Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault, either as a victim or an accused?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes", give specific details:

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(Attach additional pages if needed)

Have you ever had any legal action taken against you?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes" give any pertinent data:

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Have you ever been fingerprinted? (excluding this application process)

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes" list when, where and purpose:

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Is there anything in your background and history that would preclude you from working alongside law enforcement, the judicial and/or health care systems?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes" explain:

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## DRIVING RECORD

Current Driver's License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

List all motor vehicles registered to you or that you have access to:

Year / Make / Registration / Insurance Policy Number / Owner & Address

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Has your driver's license or vehicle registration ever been suspended, revoked, or have you ever been refused a driver's license in NJ or any other State or Territory?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If "yes" explain:

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**REASON FOR APPLYING TO BE AN ADVOCATE ON THE WOMANSPACE RESPONSE TEAMS**

How did you hear about the Womanspace Response Teams of Mercer County?

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What, if any, has been your experience in domestic violence or sexual assault?

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What special skills, interests, or experience do you have which would contribute to your involvement in domestic violence and sexual assault support and services?

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Explain your reasons for applying to be an advocate on the Womanspace Response Teams of Mercer County:

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How do you feel about working in an environment that deals with sensitive issues such as incest, reproductive choice, sexual orientation, domestic violence, and sexual assault?

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Volunteering as an Advocate involves time and energy. Are you willing to commit to attend monthly meetings, training, and occasional associated events?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that my service as a Womanspace Response Teams of Mercer County Advocate will be contingent upon the results of processing this application, and I am aware that willfully withholding information or making false statements on this application will be the basis for dismissal from the Womanspace Response Teams of Mercer County. I hereby certify that all statements made by me on this application are true and complete, to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: