



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF MONMOUTH

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ACTING MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Dear Monmouth County Business Owner/Manager,

We would like to invite you to participate in our Safe Place program. The Safe Place program is an active collaboration between your local police department, businesses, social organizations, and schools designed to assist in making communities a safer place to live. We are currently piloting this new initiative in Asbury Park, Long Branch and Red Bank and will be moving the program countywide soon.

Safe Place participants will display a decal designating their establishment a "safe place" for any individual to enter and call law enforcement should they feel unsafe. This initiative began in Seattle, Washington as an effort to reduce LGBTQ+ bias incidents and hate crimes. Our Monmouth County Safe Place program is designed to assist all victims of hate crimes or bias incidents that include, but are not limited to, race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, national origin or ethnicity. Any individual who sees the Safe Place logo will know that the establishment displaying the decal will provide a safe space for someone to call 911 for assistance should they feel unsafe.

The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office is committed to the safety of all Monmouth County residents and visitors to be free from bias incidents and hate crimes. Safe Place sends a message to victims of bias and hate crimes that they will be treated with care, dignity, and respect from the businesses they enter as well as from the police officers who respond to investigate. The Safe Place program is currently in almost 300 municipalities within the United States, Canada, and Europe. Businesses that have joined the Safe Place Program include Starbucks, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Chase, T-Mobile stores and MOD pizza to name just a few.

What are my responsibilities to join?

Safe Place is FREE to join! There is zero cost to your business.

Although this is a voluntary concept, there are responsibilities to become a member of our Safe Place program and display our decal. That responsibility is simple, requiring you to train/educate your staff to do two things:

1. If a victim of any crime enters your premises, call 911 immediately.
2. Allow the victim to remain on your premise 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, co-workers, and compliance with existing organizational policies.

How do I become a MCPO SAFE PLACE Participant?

Simply contact your local police department or the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office at SafePlace@mcponj.org. You will be contacted by a police officer or detective to talk more about the program and your participation.

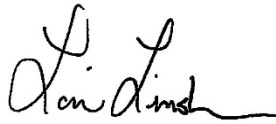
Where do I put the MCPO Safe Place Decal?

The 4x6 inch decal should be placed at the main public entrance, 3-5 feet off the ground and easily visible to anyone walking past your premise.

For more information:

Please contact your local police department or send us an inquiry at SafePlace@mcponj.org.

Very truly yours,



LORI LINSKEY
ACTING MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Enclosures