



Michelle S. Cruz
Victim Advocate

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF THE VICTIM ADVOCATE
505 HUDSON STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(860) 550-6632 / Toll free- (888) 771-3126

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(860) 550-6632

CONTACT: State Victim Advocate

Michelle Cruz, Esq.

STATE VICTIM ADVOCATE ANNOUNCES A NEW ALLIANCE WITH THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CRISIS CENTER OF STAMFORD AND THE GREENWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

HARTFORD—State Victim Advocate Michelle Cruz, Esq., has announced a new alliance with the Domestic Violence Crisis Center (DVCC) of Stamford and the Greenwich Police Department.

The goal of the new alliance is for the Office of The Victim Advocate (OVA) to provide education and outreach to the public in the Southwestern quadrant of Connecticut and provide accessibility to Connecticut crime victims. A representative from the OVA will be available at DVCC and the Greenwich Police Department one day each month to provide assistance to the public related to crime victims' rights. The representative can answer questions regarding crime victims' rights and conduct outreach and education.

“Crime victims often express feeling isolated and alone in their struggles for justice in our courts and communities. The OVA’s hope is by extending access to the OVA to the southwestern portion of the State, crime victims will feel heard and empowered,” Michelle Cruz stated.

The Greenwich Police Department look forward to the monthly visits. “We have worked closely with the OVA, and found that they provide invaluable assistance and support to victims and we look forward to continually working in conjunction with the OVA in offering victims from Greenwich additional assistance and support.” Lt. Rick Cochran from the Greenwich Police Department related.

DVCC Executive Director Rachelle Kucera Mehra welcomed the future monthly visits by a representative from the OVA. “An OVA presence will complement the services provided every day by DVCC staff attorneys and Victim Advocates in the Stamford and Norwalk courts to victims of intimate partner violence,” she said. “The legal issues that our clients have to deal with are often complicated, and to be able to discuss them with a representative from the State Victim Advocate’s office provides a wonderful opportunity to further justice for victims of intimate partner violence,” Rachelle Kucera Mehra stated.

The OVA is an independent state agency statutorily charged with protecting and promoting the rights of crime victims in Connecticut’s criminal justice system and with monitoring and evaluating the delivery of services by Connecticut's victim services delivery system. The DVCC offers confidential services at no charge, including court and legal services, group and individual counseling, temporary shelter, housing services, children’s services, medical advocacy, professional adult trainings, multilingual services, PeaceWorks prevention education and a 24-hour hotline (1-888-774-2900). DVCC is the only domestic violence agency serving the communities of Stamford, Norwalk, Westport, Darien, New Canaan, Wilton and Weston

Contact the OVA for more information on the dates and times of the OVA’s scheduled attendance at DVCC and the Greenwich Police Department.

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