



Office of the Victim Advocate Speakers' Bureau

The Office of the Victim Advocate (OVA) is in the beginning stages of creating a “Speakers’ Bureau” for this summer – a volunteer opportunity with the OVA. The goal of the “Speakers Bureau” is to train crime victims- which includes by definition, the victim, family members of a victim(s), and friends and supporters of victim, to educate their local communities about crime victims’ rights, what the OVA can do for crime victims and how to navigate the criminal justice system.

The “Speakers Bureau” will consist of a “Nuts & Bolts” training of crime victims’ rights in our state and the criminal justice system, resources available in our state, how to advocate for crime victims during their journey through the criminal justice system and, most importantly, how to combat vicarious trauma which is often associated with assisting crime victims in their process.

Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a member of our “Speakers Bureau”. The commitment for the training would be a half day training, and a yearly refresher training. The OVA, with its tiny staff, cannot currently nor most likely in the future, meet the outreach demands of the communities across the state. Therefore, members of the “Speakers Bureau” will be notified of upcoming speaking engagements (senior centers, schools, town hall meetings, etc.) and encourage, at their availability, to accept or decline speaking engagements. For those of you who desire a deeper involvement in the crime victims’ rights movement, there will be opportunities to become engaged in your respective communities. Again, this is a volunteer opportunity and also an opportunity to education oneself about the resources available to crime victims and their families. Some individuals may seek to attend the “Speakers’ Bureau” and then simply place fliers or handouts within their local communities and yet others may choose to become more activity involved. The level of involvement is yours.

In the end, we hope to have numerous individuals throughout the state available to talk about crime victims’ rights and resources, and also, perhaps, be a contact in their communities for the unfortunate new crime victim, learning how to navigate the criminal justice system.

To express an interest, please email Tammy McManaway at tammy.mcmanaway@ct.gov or contact the office at (860) 550-6632.