



# Confidential Sexual Violence Advocates

Confidential Sexual Violence Advocates (CSVAs) serve at New Jersey's 21 county-based sexual violence programs, where they use a trauma-informed approach to assist with crisis intervention, hotline calls, and survivor advocacy.

## A CSVA CAN PROVIDE:

- ***Crisis intervention and confidential emotional support.***
- ***Referrals to and information about available resources.***
- ***Accompaniment to hospitals, police stations, and courtrooms.***

CSVAs receive ongoing highly specialized training on the dynamics of sexual violence, the effects that trauma can have on survivors, and best practices for supporting and empowering survivors and their loved ones when interacting with various systems. CSVAs respect the autonomy of each survivor they support and ensure that the survivor's needs and safety are prioritized every step of the way.



***Survivors and their loved ones can access the free, compassionate, confidential support of a Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate.***

## PROTECTING SURVIVOR CONFIDENTIALITY

As confidential advocates, CSVAs give survivors a safe and neutral space to process their trauma and explore their options. CSVAs are required to protect survivors' privacy and confidential information (see *N.J.S.A. § 2A:84A-22.14-15*) unless one of the following exceptions applies:

1. The victim instructs the advocate to disclose information through written consent;
2. The victim discloses information about abuse or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult, which CSVAs are mandated by law to report (see *N.J.S.A. §§ 9:6-8.9, 9:6-8.10, 9:6-8.14, AG Standard 7 for Providing Services to Victims of Sexual Assault [2018]*).



**If you or a loved one have been impacted by sexual violence and are in need of support, you can call the 24-hour Statewide Hotline at [1-800-601-7200](tel:1-800-601-7200) or go to [njcasa.org/find-help](https://njcasa.org/find-help) for information about your local sexual violence program and available resources.**

## SART AND THE ROLE OF CSVAS

CSVAs make up one-third of a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), an interdisciplinary team of experts that includes law enforcement officers and sexual assault nurse examiners (SANEs)/forensic nurse examiners (FNEs). When a SART is activated by a survivor of sexual violence, team members work together to provide help accessing and navigating the various medical, legal, and other support services available to the survivor.

SART activation can occur through a hospital, police station, or sexual violence program. **Survivors can request or decline any of the components of a SART—law enforcement, SANEs/FNEs, or confidential advocacy services—when they consent to an activation.** Once the SART is activated, members must respond within one hour.

Survivors who are 13 years of age or older and consent to a SART activation can access these services if they have experienced an assault within the **last 7 days** (or, if they wait to make a disclosure, up to 9 days post-assault, if determined by a SANE/FNE that viable forensic evidence may still be available for collection).

## HOW TO BECOME A CSVA

CSVAs are committed to serving survivors and their loved ones with compassion, empathy, and respect and advocating for a world free from violence through an anti-racist, anti-oppression lens. CSVAs can support their program's 24-hour hotline, serve as members of Sexual Assault Response Teams, and assist survivors in making informed decisions and navigating available systems and services.

You can apply to become a CSVA at one of New Jersey's sexual violence programs if you meet the following requirements\*:

- 18 years of age or older;
- Reside a short distance from a county program;
- Have a valid driver's license and/or reliable transportation;
- Have confidence when providing direct service to survivors (or a willingness to learn!);
- Consent to a criminal background check;
- Willing to improve your knowledge of sexual violence and systems, including completing a minimum 40-hour CSVA training;
- Willing to be a mandated reporter of child and elder abuse; and
- Committed to serve all individuals in the community, regardless of gender, age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, faith or spiritual practice, income, or ability.

*\*Individual programs may have additional requirements.*

**Learn More:**

**[www.njcasa.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.njcasa.org/get-involved/volunteer)**

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**njcoalition**  
against sexual assault