



Position: Legal Victim Advocate
Supervisor: Program Manager

Job Summary: Provide supportive services to victims and their children, including: safety planning, resource direction and connection, legal advocacy through the criminal justice process. The Legal Advocate will work collaboratively with the District Attorney's Office and Victim Witness Program to support victims.

Essential Duties:

Provide crisis counseling, personalized safety planning and intervention services for victims of domestic violence and their families in person or by phone.

Advocate for and empower domestic violence victims as they address their individual needs through the social service and criminal justice systems.

Provide legal advocacy by accompanying victims to court, explanation of legal process and assistance with necessary protection orders.

Develop collaborative relationships with partners in the community and criminal justice system. Bridge communication between prosecutors and victims, while maintaining the self-determination of victims as their priority.

Review jail list, attend lockups and initial appearances daily to connect with victims in a timely manner after an incident.

Completes and maintains necessary documentation through established written and computer protocols.

Other Duties:

Promote a healthy shelter living environment by ensuring that shelter guidelines and responsibilities are followed by shelter residents and that any issues are addressed immediately through proper protocol.

Maintain a clean, professional appearance of facility by following protocol for accepting and storing donations, keep storage areas organized, and complete other tasks as assigned.

Maintains the confidential nature of client and business information.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence.

Knowledge of restraining orders, no contacts, victim advocate services

Knowledge of professional social work interviewing principles and techniques.

Knowledge of casework principles and methods, social systems, family dynamics, group and individual behavior.

Knowledge of community resources and ways in which they may be made available to clients and residents.

Knowledge of human development; strong understanding of attitudes, behaviors and development through the lifespan.

Knowledge of and ability to utilize a computer and the required software.

Ability to understand human behavior and to relate sensitively and effectively with victims of domestic violence and their families.

Ability to assess client and/or resident crisis and ongoing social needs; specifically in the area of domestic violence, to set priorities for solutions and consider alternative plans.

Ability to be decisive and make constructive decisions, under the pressure of crises or emergencies, with appropriate knowledge and timing.

Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with a wide variety of collateral resources.

Ability to plan and organize work and to make effective use of time.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

Ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships with staff and the public.

Ability to work the required hours of the position.

Preferred Qualification:

*Bilingual in Spanish
Paralegal background*

Minimum Qualifications Required:

Bachelor's Degree in social work, criminal justice or related human service field or equivalent human service related experience.

Valid Wisconsin driver's license and insurable per Golden House auto insurance requirements

Completion of criminal background check

Typical physical and mental demands:

Requires sitting, standing, bending and reaching. Requires eye-hand coordination and manual dexterity sufficient to operate a computer and standard office equipment. Requires hearing within normal range and vision correctable to 20/20 to read communications, reports and computer terminals.

Must be able to analyze many variables and choose the most effective course of action for clients and/or the organization at any given point in time. Must be able to communicate and provide verbal feedback in a professional manner. Must be able to analyze causes of interpersonal conflicts and resolve complex communications issues. Must be able to resolve problems, handle conflict, and make effective decisions independently. Ability to give, receive and analyze information, formulate plans, prepare written materials, and articulate goals and action plans. Must handle novel and diverse work problems on a daily basis. Must be able to perform arithmetic calculations involving fractions, decimals and percentages.

This position description should not be interpreted as all-inclusive. It is intended to identify the major responsibilities and requirements of this job. The employee may be requested to perform job-related responsibilities and tasks other than those stated in this description.

