

Resilience
Children's Medical/Legal Advocate
Job Posting

Position Title: Children's Medical/Legal Advocate (full-time, non-exempt)

Reports to: Supervisor of Advocacy Services

Salary Range: \$40,500 - \$42,000, commensurate with experience

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Resilience (formerly Rape Victim Advocates) is an independent, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the healing and empowerment of sexual assault survivors through non-judgmental crisis intervention counseling, individual and group trauma therapy, and medical and legal advocacy in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Resilience provides public education and institutional advocacy in order to improve the treatment of sexual assault survivors and to effect positive change in policies and public attitudes toward sexual assault. Established in 1974, Resilience now serves more than 2000 survivors of sexual violence and their loved ones annually through our main office in downtown Chicago and our community-based offices in Austin, Ravenswood, and on the Stroger Hospital campus.

GENERAL ROLE DESCRIPTION

The Children's Medical/Legal Advocate position is responsible for providing crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, and emotional support to child and adolescent sexual assault victims/survivors and their significant others. The Children's Medical/Legal Advocate also provides these services to adult victims/survivors on an as-needed basis. Services are provided through contacts in the emergency department of contracted emergency departments, telephone crisis calls, and walk-in requests. Responsibilities also include providing institutional advocacy hospitals, the Child Advocacy Center and local law enforcement. The Children's Medical Advocate works out of the RISE Children's Center. This position is part of the on-call staff rotation providing 24-hour crisis response to affiliated hospitals, and is an essential part of the Advocacy Services Program. **This is a bilingual (English/Spanish) position.**

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide advocacy, support, and information in regard to legal and medical rights of families and children seen at RISE Children's Center.
- Provide crisis intervention, emotional support, and medical/legal advocacy to sexual assault survivors seen in the emergency department of partner hospitals.
- Provide immediate legal advocacy to survivors in the emergency department and accompanying them to the police stations, as needed.
- Provide referrals to necessary follow-up services for sexual assault survivors and their family or guardians, including temporary housing, food, clothing, locksmith services, counseling, and court accompaniment.
- Provide on-going legal advocacy for sexual assault survivors including: explanation of the legal process; accompaniment to the police station, State's Attorney's office, through the family or child protective court system; and information about non-criminal justice options.
- Carry a caseload of active legal advocacy clients and keep these clients regularly apprised of their case status.
- Provide on-going medical advocacy services, as needed (e.g. billing problems, STD and pregnancy testing, HIV testing and treatment, substance abuse programs, DCFS, etc.).
- Carry a caseload of active medical advocacy clients and keep these clients regularly apprised of their medical follow up appointments and billing status.
- Provide on-call coverage for assigned and rotating shifts as part of the 24-hour hospital crisis response. This involves evenings and some weekends.

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- Provide support and information to family members and significant others within the bounds of the rape crisis confidentiality statute.
- Assist the Director of Advocacy Services with institutional advocacy efforts and professional trainings for local law enforcement, emergency department staff, and social service agencies.
- Support the Training & Outreach Coordinator in offering professional trainings for a variety of audiences through the Resilience Training Institute.
- Perform on-going outreach and networking to child service providers to foster collaboration & maintain awareness of the Resilience services and issues impacting children.
- Assist the Advocacy Volunteer Coordinator and Director of Advocacy Services with portions of the volunteer training and in-services.
- Attend all staff/supervision/case consultation meetings, attend advocacy in-services, and participate in staff development activities.
- Participate in meetings/trainings for local and statewide sexual assault coalitions, institutional partners, and other agencies, as assigned.
- Participate on internal and external committees or activism, that address issues of responding to sexual violence of children and youth, trauma-informed care, racial equity, disability inclusion, or LGBTQ+ issues.
- Maintain accurate and complete records of all services delivered including evaluation of advocacy services. Adhere to agency and departmental documentation submission requirements.
- Complete monthly reports and documentation, including assisting the Director of Advocacy Services with statistical reporting.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bilingual (Written and verbal fluency) in Spanish/English required; bicultural strongly preferred
- One year of professional work experience preferred
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to objectively advocate for the needs/rights of others
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Strong public speaking skills with a variety of audiences
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as with a team
- Exceptional organizational and record-keeping skills
- Positive attitude and pro-active approach to problem solving
- Regular access to a vehicle, valid driver's license and proof of insurance for effective service delivery
- Previous experience working on women's and/or human rights issues, addressing sexual violence/gender-based violence, and working with diverse populations including LGBTQ communities strongly preferred
- Previous experience working specifically with Latino communities strongly preferred
- Previous experience working with children and navigating child protective services is preferred
- Completion of a minimum of 40-hours of sexual assault training within two months of hire is required; previous completion of the training is strongly preferred

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ENVIRONMENTAL/PHYSICAL

- Meet all health requirements as needed.
- Potential for exposure to environmental and/or psychological hazards on or offsite at select partner locations.
- Physical requirements may include (extended or periodic) walking, bending, reaching, sitting and lifting.

Persons of color and LGBTQ persons are encouraged to apply. Resilience is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability in its procedures and policies.

To Apply:

Please send your cover letter and resume:

Resilience

jobs@ourresilience.org

Include Children's Legal/Medical Advocate and your last name in the subject line.

Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

No phone calls, please.