



RESILIENCE
EMPOWERING
SURVIVORS
ENDING SEXUAL
VIOLENCE

180 North Michigan Ave.
Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60601

312-443-9603 tel
312-443-9602 fax
ourresilience.org

Position Title: Legal & Medical Advocate (full-time, non-exempt)

Reports to: Supervisor of Advocacy Services

Salary Range: \$43,000-45,000, commensurate with experience

Benefits: HMO, Dental, Vision, Life Insurance fully covered by employer. Holiday, Vacation and Sick time.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Resilience 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 over 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 Legal & Medical Advocate (based at the Northside Office) is responsible for providing crisis intervention, medical and legal advocacy, and emotional support to sexual assault survivors and their loved ones. This position is responsible for providing legal advocacy to survivors of sexual assault, including but not limited to: accompaniment for survivors to police stations, throughout the court process, and to obtain an Order of Protection or a Civil No Contact Order; assistance with filing for crime victims' compensation and referrals for other services; discussing alternatives to the criminal legal system, and providing referrals for any work-related issues. The advocate liaises with police and prosecutors as requested to ensure proper charges are pursued and filed. In addition, the Legal & Medical Advocate will provide crisis intervention, emotional support, and appropriate referrals/linkages to sexual assault survivors and their loved ones through the emergency department of partner hospitals, telephone crisis calls, and walk-in requests. As requested, this position will also assist survivors in navigating medical follow up needs such as reproductive options, STI/HIV follow up testing and medical billing reimbursement. Responsibilities also include providing systems-based institutional advocacy in criminal legal, court and healthcare systems. 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.

COVID 19 CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the current pandemic conditions, the Legal & Medical Advocate will temporarily work from home until such time that conditions allow for a return to our on-site offices. However, please note that we are providing in person services to emergency departments, courthouses and police stations that are able to demonstrate adherence to COVID 19 safety measures consistent with current CDC, federal and local mandates. We will equip all staff with PPE.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide in-person support, crisis intervention and information and referrals to survivors of sexual assault and their loved ones
- Provide crisis intervention, emotional support, and legal & medical advocacy to sexual assault survivors seen in the emergency department of partner hospitals
- Provide ongoing legal advocacy for sexual assault survivors including: explanation of the legal process; accompaniment to the police station, State's Attorney's office, through the court system; and information about non-criminal justice options



- Carry a caseload of active legal clients and keep these clients regularly apprised of their case 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
- Provide immediate legal advocacy to survivors in the emergency department and accompany them to the police station, as needed
- Provide ongoing 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 information and referrals including temporary housing, food, clothing, locksmith services, substance abuse treatment, counseling, or follow up medical advocacy services
- Provide crisis intervention, information and referrals via the Northside Office through telephone and in-person contacts
- 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 medical, court and criminal legal systems.
- Perform ongoing outreach and networking within the North Side community to foster collaboration and maintain awareness of the Northside Office and Resilience services
- Support the Training & Outreach Manager in offering professional trainings for a variety of audiences through the Resilience Training Institute
- Maintain accurate and complete records of all services delivered including evaluation of advocacy services. Adhere to agency and departmental documentation submission requirements
- 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 or domestic violence, systems-based advocacy, trauma-informed care, racial equity, disability inclusion, and/or LGBTQ+ issues
- Complete monthly reports and documentation, including assisting the Director of Advocacy Services with statistical reporting
- Perform other duties as assigned

REQUIREMENTS

- Bilingual (written and verbal fluency) in Spanish and English 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



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- Strong public speaking skills and experience speaking to a variety of audiences
- Ability to take initiative and work independently, as well as with a team
- Exceptional organizational and recordkeeping skills
- Positive attitude and proactive approach to problem solving
- Regular access to a vehicle, valid driver's license, and proof of insurance preferred
- Previous experience working in human rights issues, addressing sexual violence/gender-based violence and working with diverse populations including LGBTQ and BIPOC communities strongly preferred
- Familiarity and/or experience working with the criminal justice system or health care systems is strongly preferred
- Completion of a minimum of 40 hours of sexual assault training within 60 days of hire is required; previous completion of the training is strongly preferred

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 to:

Carolina Sánchez, Supervisor of Advocacy Services

jobs@ourresilience.org

Include Legal & Medical Advocate (NSO) and your last name in the subject line.

Please note that applications without cover letters will not be considered.

No phone calls, please.