

Court Advocate

Importance: Court Advocates support victims by either approaching them after their restraining order hearings or sitting with them during their hearing (if requested). Court Advocates are often the first to speak to victims about SAVE's free services and staying safe. By being there for someone seeking safety from abuse, Court Advocates provide security and reassurance, especially in the face of an unfamiliar legal system or fear of seeing the abusive partner in court.

Program: COPS

Mentor: Court Advocate

Responsibilities:

- Ask clerk for an agenda at the beginning of the court session and follow along, taking notes if necessary.
- Determine if each case falls under SAVE's definition of intimate partner violence (family violence is included in "domestic violence" court).
- Wait until the court has provided the petitioner (victim) with paperwork or s/he has come back from mediation before starting a conversation.
- Approach person outside of the courtroom:
 - Introduce yourself.
 - Provide information about SAVE's services.
 - Give brochure and discuss safety planning.
- Complete a demographic form for each client (all forms must be turned into the Community Office each Wednesday by 5 pm).
- Wear your identifying name badge at all times and give out business cards to other court representatives to foster connections.
- Keep a supply of brochures and forms with you.
- *Participate in Volunteer Program:*
 - Turn in timesheet the 2nd of every month.
 - Attend monthly volunteer meeting every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm.

Requirements:

- **Qualifications:**
 - Ability to sit for long periods of time during court proceedings.
 - Willingness to engage with victims of domestic violence, offering support and resources. Friendliness and approachability.
 - Ability to take in stride less than friendly responses.
 - Must pass Livescan background check.

- **Training:**

- 40 hour Domestic Violence Counselor Training

Time Commitment & Availability:

- Minimum commitment of 100 hours over a period of 6 months or longer.
- Must be available on **Fridays** from **9 am – 1 pm**.

Location: Hayward Hall of Justice

Benefits:

- Offer support to those seeking safety from abuse by being a support person and/offering free services that are available to them.
- Network within the court system and gain knowledge about civil/family law proceedings.
- Be a part of an active, supportive group of volunteers!