



Posting Date:	8/19/10	Closing Date:	9/17/10
Job Title:	Forensic Social Worker	Job Reference Code:	CDP-2010-009

### MAJOR PURPOSE OF POSITION

The Criminal Practice has an open Forensic Social Worker position in the Defender Services Program (DSP) unit of the New York County office.

While working closely with the CP attorneys, the FSW's primary role is to interview clients, and any collateral contacts, with the goal of gathering a life history to highlight mitigating circumstances such as mental illness, drug addiction, trauma and/or chronic poverty leading to a client's involvement in the criminal justice system. They will then advocate for an alternative to incarceration, or lesser sentence, based on mitigating factors. The FSW will evaluate clients and recommend a treatment program. The FSW will fill out necessary paperwork and provide supporting documents to facilitate a client's interview with a program and/or to assure a client's acceptance into a program. The FSW educates the client about treatment options, offers crisis intervention, and short term counseling. The FSW provides essential information to attorneys about clients.

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Interview the client, performing a thorough bio-psycho-social assessment. During this process, crisis intervention, brief treatment, or short term counseling may also be performed.
- Identify and interview collateral sources of information. Collateral interviews are done with family members, friends, teachers, social workers, community members, and others connected to the client.
- Request, review, and analyze life history records (i.e. school, medical, psychiatric) in order to document specific arguments within written reports.
- Develop casework plans in conjunction with the attorneys, develop alternative sentencing plans, and provide advocacy in court.
- Assess a client's readiness for treatment and makes referrals to substance abuse treatment, domestic violence, mental health counseling, shelters, etc.

### SECONDARY DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Other duties as assigned

### TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong diagnostic skills with a background emphasis in working with the following special need client populations: MICA, physical illnesses and physical disabilities, mental illness, mental retardation, and developmental delays, and clients with histories of substance abuse.
- Ability to interface with Judges, District Attorneys and Correctional Personnel
- Ability to negotiate with community based treatment centers
- Ability to write persuasively
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong computer skills
- Ability to work within a team model
- Candidates must have an MSW degree and NYS certification in social work (LMSW)

### HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to be considered for this position, submit a cover letter and resume to the contact person listed below.

<b>Contact Person:</b>	John Volpe	<b>E-mail:</b>	jfvolpe@legal-aid.org
<b>Contact #:</b>	N/A	<b>Fax #:</b>	(646) 616-4340
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