



Posting Date:	12/27/11	Closing Date:	3/12/12
Job Title:	Forensic Social Worker PRDU	Job Reference Code:	CDP-2011-019

MAJOR PURPOSE OF POSITION

The Criminal Practice has a vacant position for a Forensic Social Worker in the Parole Revocation Defense Unit (PRDU). This position is a Rikers Island based practice with an office at the Water Street location. Candidates must be willing to travel to the Rikers Island Judicial Center regularly.

Working closely with the PRDU attorneys, the FSW's primary role includes court advocacy, client assessment and program linkage. Specifically, the FSW will conduct jail-based client assessments, develop alternative-to-incarceration plans, and testify at parole violation hearings as an expert witness at the Rikers Island Judicial Center. The FSW is responsible for compiling and/or completing all necessary paperwork and supporting documents to facilitate a client's interviews with community providers and/or to securing client acceptance into community treatment programs. The FSW also educates the client about treatment options, manages crisis interventions, and offers short term supportive counseling, when necessary.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Interview the client, performing a thorough bio-psycho-social assessment. During this process, provide crisis intervention, brief treatment, or short term counseling, as needed.
- Identify and obtain information from collateral sources. 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 support of written/oral advocacy.
- 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

- Candidates must have an MSW degree and NYS certification in social work (LMSW)
- Strong diagnostic skills with experience working with clients with the following special needs: MICA clients, clients with physical illnesses and physical disabilities, clients with mental illness, mental retardation, and developmental delays, and clients with histories of substance abuse.
- Ability to interface with court and correctional personnel
- Ability to negotiate with community based treatment providers
- Ability to quickly develop treatment plans
- Ability to work within a team model
- Excellent court advocacy skills
- Excellent writing, verbal, organizational, and computer skills

- Commitment to protecting the rights of persons accused of parole violations
- Proficiency in Spanish is desirable, but not required

HOW TO APPLY

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

Contact Person:	Coleen Hall	E-mail:	Chall@legal-aid.org
Contact #:	N/A	Fax #:	(646) 616-4568

The Legal Aid Society is an Equal Opportunity Employer – Women, People of Color, Gays and Lesbians, Transgender People, Veterans and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply.