Child Advocate Social Worker

The Support Center for Child Advocates (Child Advocates) is seeking a full-time CHILD ADVOCATE SOCIAL WORKER to serve the agency’s Core Program on Child Protection. Work for a premier child advocacy program. Experience multi-disciplinary practice of lawyers and social workers, outstanding staff collegiality, and commitment to quality service.

Agency: Child Advocates is Philadelphia’s volunteer lawyer program for abused and neglected children, providing legal and social service advocacy, through the service of volunteer attorneys teamed with staff social workers and attorneys. Child Advocates utilizes a "whole child" model of representation, focusing on advocacy for safety, health, education, family permanency, and access to justice for child clients. Systemically, we promote collaborative, multi-disciplinary casework and solutions to recurrent problems. For the community, we provide educational programs to increase awareness about the problems of and ways to prevent child abuse. Whenever possible, Child Advocates seeks to maintain children in their homes of origin. Child Advocates further seeks to protect children by securing social services, advocating as needed for alternative homes, and supporting children when testifying in court. Respected for diligent and effective advocacy in more than 42 years of service, Child Advocates attorneys and social workers move public systems to deliver entitled services and private systems to open their doors to children and their families.

Position Summary:
• Provide direct service social work for children and youth who have experienced abuse and neglect, in model of lawyer-social worker collaboration. Team with volunteer attorneys from the Philadelphia legal community to serve a caseload of approximately 50 children.
• Attend court hearings, conduct home visits, analyze records, and maintain contact with clients and caregivers, as well as all other professionals serving the child and family to develop and utilize social work assessments in the team’s representation of child clients.
• Train and mentor volunteer attorneys to encourage trauma-informed practices.
• Accompany child survivors of sexual and physical assault to court and support child witnesses throughout court testimony;
• Advocate and arrange for evaluations of children, family members and prospective caretakers; appropriate school placements and services to meet education and treatment needs; provide victim assistance; and apply for victim compensation (VCAP).

Minimum Qualifications: Required: Master of Social Work Degree (MSW or similar); experience working with children and families; experience conducting home-visits with clients; computer proficiency (Microsoft Office Suite, Outlook). Preferred: Spanish-language proficiency; familiarity with Philadelphia child welfare system; experience with case management databases a plus.

Salary: $47,000+ based on experience. Benefits incl. health, disability & life insurance, 401-K employer contribution, cafeteria plan for dependent care expenses, and generous leave program.

Apply to: Candidates must include both a cover letter and resume. Email documents to: personnel@SACCALaw.org (include “Social Worker Search” in subject line)