

Criminal Justice Volunteer

Position Description

As a Criminal Justice Volunteer, you will help survivors navigate the overwhelming process of criminal prosecution at one of four prosecution or law enforcement sites in the community. You will provide emotional support, advocacy counseling, safety planning, and community referrals to domestic violence survivors who may be involved in the criminal prosecution process or who have been referred by law enforcement officers.

Responsibilities

- As a Prosecution Court Advocate, you will attend criminal court hearings and keep in touch with survivors through the criminal process. You will act as a liaison between survivors and prosecutors.
- As a Law Enforcement Support Advocate, you will provide follow-up contact with survivors involved in domestic violence incidents whereon arrest was made and act as a liaison between survivors and detectives.

Volunteer Benefits

- Opportunity to develop crisis intervention skills
- Experience working with diverse populations
- Experience working within the criminal justice system
- Opportunity to gain familiarity with courtroom procedure
- The chance to work with other compassionate, hard-working individuals including volunteers, clients, staff, and Board of Directors



**Domestic Violence and
Sexual Assault Services**
ending violence, transforming lives

1407 Commercial St.
Bellingham, WA 98225
www.dvsas.org

24 hour helpline: 360.715.1563
toll-free: 877.715.1563
*accepts 711 and other relay calls
Se habla español.*

Criminal Justice Volunteer

Qualifications

- Belief in the rights of all individuals to self determination and empowerment
- Comfortable working with local law enforcement agencies and court employees
- Ability to respond with empathy to individuals in crisis
- Active listening skills and ability to tailor friendly communication skills to meet client needs
- Able to work independently without direct supervision
- Comfortable working with people of varying socioeconomic and racial backgrounds and sexual orientations.
- Available to make a one-year commitment during business hours to work at one site: Bellingham City Attorney's Office, Bellingham Police Department, or Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
- Willing and able to pass a drug and polygraph test
- Successful completion of an in-person interview and criminal background check
- Successful completion of the 55 hour Advocacy Counselor Training and maintain 32 ongoing training hours each year after

DVSAS Mission

No matter what their circumstances, every person deserves to feel safe, supported, and heard. At DVSAS, we support individuals affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual exploitation and lead the community toward ending those abuses of power.



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