

**RAPE VICTIM ADVOCATES  
VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION  
MEDICAL ADVOCATE (Summer Only)**

**JOB TITLE:** Volunteer Medical Advocate

Could also be referred to as a rape victim advocate, rape crisis counselor, advocate, crisis intervention counselor/advocate

**SUPERVISOR:** Advocacy Volunteer Coordinator

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Advocates must demonstrate a nonjudgmental, supportive attitude toward survivors of sexual violence. Strong interpersonal/communication skills. Focus on empathy.

**TRAINING:** Successful completion of RVA's 56 hour certification training, including class participation, group workshops/role plays, and quizzes. Once trained, volunteers are supervised through their on-call shifts. Advocates are also required to attend a minimum of 6 hours of continuing education session as scheduled throughout the year in order to maintain their certification under the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

**EVALUATION:** The Advocacy Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for the evaluation of advocates during training and throughout the year. Hospital Staff, other RVA staff, and police personnel may have access to evaluation forms and debriefing sessions, in order to express their perspective on the performance of advocate.

**COMMITMENT:** Advocates are required to commit to a quarter contract. The contract is for a period of 4 months and includes (June, July, August and September) Advocates are expected to complete three shifts per month (at least two of them must be night shifts) A summer only agreement will be signed by the advocates and volunteer coordinator. It is expected that advocates also be committed to the philosophy of the organization: non-violence, non-oppression, and the empowerment of women and all victims of sexual violence.

**OBJECTIVE:** To provide crisis intervention counseling, nonjudgmental support, medical and legal advocacy to survivors of sexual violence and their family/friends, provide proper referrals and information, and provide telephone follow-up with survivors within **24 to 48 hours**.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Summer only advocates are required to take 36 hours (3 twelve hour shifts) of on-call duty each month, which may take them to ANY of the hospital emergency rooms RVA services. Advocates are required to sign-up for their shifts no later than a week before the month begins. Advocates will, in all situations, act diplomatically and respectfully toward survivors, significant others, police, hospital staff, state's attorneys, and other advocates/staff. Advocates will collect data as appropriate and submit forms to the office for monthly statistical reporting in a timely fashion (~48 hours). Advocates will submit receipts for any cab coupons used or other survivor-related expenses. Advocates are required to find a replacement for any on-call shift they signed up for and cannot complete at least one week before their on-call date. Advocates are required to insure that their stock of necessary materials i.e. cab coupons, survivor packets and data collection forms are sufficient for their on call shift.

With the survivor's permission, advocates are expected to remain with the survivor throughout the medical examination, evidence collection, and police interviews. When appropriate, advocates will accompany the survivor to the police station to view line-ups/mug shots and for interviews by police/prosecutors. If a case is taken to court, effort will be made for an advocate (staff) to accompany, as needed. Crisis intervention counseling will also be provided for the survivor and significant others.

**BENEFITS:** Free training, experience in crisis counseling, experience in public speaking (if desired), leadership development, personal growth, reference for future job or school applications, and satisfaction resulting from social service and social change work. There is also an opportunity to interact with and meet a variety of positive-minded people, receive support from veteran advocates, fellow advocates, and sister organizations.