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Washington County Victim Assistance Volunteer & Internship Program



Since 1983, the Victim Assistance Program has helped victims of crime navigate the criminal justice system. Our program is always seeking community volunteers and student interns interested in helping victims of crime. Volunteer victim advocates work alongside staff to provide emotional and informational support to victims of crime.

Crime Victim Advocates: Volunteer or Intern?

The Crime Victim Advocate Internship Program is designed to provide criminal justice system experience to students interested in advocating for crime victims in the prosecution of criminal cases. Students can earn academic credit or fulfill class internship requirements by successfully completing a Victim Assistance internship. We require a minimum six month commitment where interns work at least 15 hours per week. This is an unpaid internship. We are happy to provide references upon successful completion of the program.

Volunteers in the Victim Assistance Program can be students or community members who are interested in working with and advocating for victims of crime. We require a minimum one year commitment, but we do not stipulate a mandatory number of hours per week; we typically recommend coverage of four court events per month so the volunteer gains enough experience to fully learn the system and provide appropriate support and information to victims. Volunteering with the Victim Assistance Program provides great job experience in the criminal justice system and builds a great connection between you and your community.

Volunteer and Intern Jobs

Volunteers and interns work alongside staff advocates to meet the mission of our program: To support and aid victims of crime as they move through the criminal justice process; to provide them with assistance, services, and resource information; to promote participation in the criminal justice system by educating victims about their rights and to advocate for the enforcement of these rights; and to coordinate with community agencies to ensure continuity of support for victims.

Specifically, all volunteers and interns gain great criminal justice experience with the following roles in the Victim Assistance Program:

Court Accompaniment

Provide emotional and informational support during hearings, including trial and sentencing.

Grand Jury Advocacy

Provide emotional and informational support during the grand jury process.

Early-Contact Calls

Contact victims of crime to provide emotional and informational support, assist with safety planning and provide referrals to community resources.

Violation of Protection Order Assistance

Assist victims of protection order violations by providing court accompaniment, hearing and sentencing information, and safety planning.

Restitution

Help victims determine and obtain monetary reimbursement to be paid by the defendant for losses incurred directly as a result of the crime.

Administrative Assistance

Assist staff with file set-up, make informational phone calls to victims, and compose case status notification and disposition letters.

Victims of Crime Served

Volunteer victim advocates assist victims of many types of crime, including, but not limited to:

- Assault

- Domestic Violence
- Child Sexual and Physical Abuse
- Elder Abuse
- Vehicular Assaults
- Identity Theft
- Burglary
- Robbery

Training

Volunteers complete a mandatory 40-hour training to learn about the criminal justice system, victimization, and the basics of advocacy. Our comprehensive training prepares volunteers and interns to work within the criminal justice system and includes coverage of the following topics:

- oppression
- victimization
- domestic violence
- sexual assault
- child abuse
- elder abuse
- probation and parole
- criminal justice
- advocacy

Speakers at training include Deputy District Attorneys and Victim Advocates from within the District Attorney's Office as well as local experts from outside agencies. All volunteers and interns complete the basic Victim Assistance 40-hour training program, and those interested in working with domestic violence or child abuse cases must complete additional training. As part of the hands-on experience, volunteers and interns are also given the opportunity to attend community meetings, training classes, tour the county jail and complete a Ride-Along with the Sheriff's Office.

Application Process

Volunteer and Intern Advocate Opportunities

The Victim Assistance Program allows you to apply for volunteer and intern positions working with the specific victim population you are interested in:

- General Advocacy: working with victims of all types of crime (except domestic violence, child abuse, and sexual assault)
- Domestic Violence Advocacy: working with survivors of domestic violence
- Child Abuse Advocacy: working with child victims of physical and sexual abuse

Volunteer and Internship Application Process

Volunteers and interns must be at least 18 years of age and:

- Complete Background Check
- Submit Application
- Interview
- Complete mandatory 40-hour training
- Sign volunteer contract

Completion of training does not guarantee formal acceptance into the volunteer or internship program.

Submit your application packet by one of the following:

Mail:

Washington County
District Attorney's Office
Attn: Volunteer Coordinator
150 N. First Avenue
Suite 300, MS 40
Hillsboro, OR 97124-3002

Fax:

Attn: Volunteer Coordinator
(503) 846-3407

E-mail:

DAVAP@co.washington.or.us

Note:

Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of applications. Incomplete application packets cannot be considered.

Contact Information

If you have questions about volunteering with the Washington County District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program, contact the Volunteer and Intern Coordinator at (503) 846-3758 or e-mail DAVAP@co.washington.or.us.