



Albany County Crime Victim
and Sexual Violence Center

Court Advocate

Description: Court Advocates provide victims of crime with emotional support, court advocacy, information, referrals, and assistance in completing compensation forms with the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS).

Hours and Location: Court Advocates are placed in the various courts around Albany County according to their availability.

Key Responsibilities:

- Speak to victims of crime when they attend their offenders' arraignment
- Provide emotional support, information and referrals
- Answer questions about the criminal justice system
- Assist victims in filing compensation forms
- Complete a total of 50 hours of online training to become a certified Crime Victim Advocate
- Maintain confidentiality at all times

Training: Court Advocates complete the Center's initial 15-hour online training module pertaining to the workings of the criminal justice system and the emotional issues surrounding victimization. This is followed by the 35-hour web-based *Office for Victims of Crime, Victim Assistance Training (OVC-VAT-Online)* and the opportunity to shadow staff Caseworkers.

Time Commitment: Court Advocates are required to commit to a minimum of six months of volunteering following their initial 15-hour training.

Support/Supervision: All Court Advocates are supervised by the Supervising Crime Victim Caseworker and provided with ongoing supervision and support as needed.

Qualifications: The Center welcomes all persons 19 years and older as Court Advocates. Volunteers must be comfortable speaking to victims in a courtroom setting and be able to communicate the victim's needs to court personnel.

If you are interested in applying to become a Court Advocate, please submit an application and your current resume to our office via fax, mail or e-mail. Once your application has been received, you will be contacted for an interview.

If you have any questions, or to speak with the Supervising Crime Victim Caseworker, please call (518) 447-7100.



Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County Executive

Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center
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