

NEW MEXICO JUDICIAL BRANCH

COURT COUNSELOR

This job description is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions performed.

SUMMARY

Under clinical direction, independently implement, conduct, and facilitate counseling sessions (i.e., family, individual); design and implement customized programs to prevent and intervene in specific areas of psychiatric, behavioral, and developmental deficits; write reports; provide clinical program training, orientation and consultation; may serve as an expert witness for the court; and provide case management services.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education: Master's degree in Psychology, Counseling or other mental health related field.

Licensure: Current license to practice in the State of New Mexico as a Licensed Professional Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LPCC), Licensed Masters Level Social Work (LMSW), Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor (LPC) or licensed to practice in the State of New Mexico as a Psychologist.

Experience: Two (2) years experience working with adults, adolescents and children in a therapeutic setting.

Experience Substitution: A licensed PhD in Psychology, Counseling or other mental health related field may substitute for one (1) year experience.

Knowledge: Knowledge of anti-social behaviors as it relates to criminal conduct; individual, couples, family and group counseling; psychopathology; child/adolescent development; child abuse (physical and sexual) and neglect; suicidality and dangerousness; family systems theory and therapy; substance abuse; psychological testing procedures and interpretations; clinical interviewing and mediating; agencies of the NM justice system (juvenile and/or adult); and statewide mental health agencies and resources; child/adolescent development.

Skill & Ability: To independently assess treatment needs; provide appropriate therapeutic interventions; work with individuals who are in high conflict; work in stressful environments and/or hostile situations on a daily basis; work with a culturally diverse population; maintain confidentiality; communicate effectively, both orally and in writing and work with judicial/legal professionals, judges and other agencies; and establish long-term therapeutic relationships with clients.

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EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED

Counseling - Provide high-level psychological interventions; implement specialized multi-therapeutic modalities and techniques to coach, motivate, shape, and restructure behavioral outcomes; gather, analyze and assess personal, family, criminal, psychiatric and substance abuse information; educate parents, families, judicial officers and the legal community in child development and the impact of ongoing conflict.

Treatment Plans - Create treatment plans and compile information regarding recommendations, status and results of treatment, psychological testing, demographic information, substance use/abuse, mental health diagnosis, custody, parent and child relationships; consult with associated professionals involved and issue detailed reports to appropriate parties.

Program/Training Development - Design and implement customized programs to address psychiatric, behavioral, and developmental deficits; programming innovations include: parenting education, domestic violence, substance abuse and social skills training groups; consult, collaborate and educate the court; namely judges, probation officers and administrators, regarding social and psychological needs/trends in the areas of juvenile delinquency, family dynamics, and adolescent psychopathology; organize regular meetings with associated professionals, colleagues and staff to train, discuss and provide updates on treatment goals and techniques, family and adolescent therapy, and changes in the adult/juvenile justice system.

Court Recommendations - Make appropriate responses and referrals to the court; present information to probation officers, other agencies and the court on the progress of cases to support recommendations; track cases and clients regarding compliance with court order and recommendations.

May formulate and recommend child placement/custody; conduct emergency evaluations; provide crisis intervention and facilitate temporary resolutions; and mentor student interns as assigned.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The following functions are representative of the work environment and physical demands an employee may expect to encounter in performing tasks assigned to this job.

Work is performed in an office, field or court setting. The work performed requires travel (valid driver's license required). The employee is expected to be punctual and to adhere to assigned work schedule. Assigned work schedules are flexible; include days, nights, weekends and holidays; overtime may be required. The employee must regularly interact positively with co-workers, clients and the public; work under severe time constraints and meet multiple demands from several people. The work requires prolonged use of computers, repetitious hand, arm and finger motions as well as manual/finger dexterity. The employee must be able to walk, talk, hear, kneel, stoop, lift, pull and carry up to 40 pounds. Travel may also be periodically required for training, meetings and presentations. The employee may be required to sit or stand for long periods of time. The employee may be exposed to fluctuating outdoor and building temperatures; hostile or violent situations that may arise when dealing with individuals involved in court cases, disturbing or hazardous court exhibits and contagious health conditions.