

VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION: ATTORNEY EMERITUS

Name of Organization: My Sister's Place

Brief Description of Organization: My Sisters' Place provides legal services to victims of domestic violence, trafficking, stalking and sexual assault in Westchester County. The Family Law Unit assists domestic violence victims in family law matters such as orders of protection, custody, visitation, child support, and appeals. My Sisters' Place also provides limited services in the area of divorce -- My Sisters' Place runs a pro se uncontested divorce clinic. The Immigration Unit assists immigrant victims of domestic violence, trafficking, stalking and sexual assault with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-petitions, Battered Spouse Waivers, U-Visas, T-Visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, public benefits and other immigration matters.

Populations Served: Victims of domestic violence and human trafficking on women, men, and children throughout Westchester County.

Website: <http://mysistersplaceny.org/>

Phone: (914) 683-1333

Address: One Water Street - White Plains, NY 10601

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR CONTACT

Name: Anne O'Grady, Esq.

Title: Managing Attorney

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Family Law Project: Orders of Protection and Child Support cases are the foundation of the family law practice of My Sisters' Place ("MSP"). These legal tools assist victims in their journey towards safety and economic independence. Domestic violence victims seek orders of protection against their abusers in their local Family Court. The subject matter of orders of protection ranges from requiring refrain from certain behavior to removing the abusive party from the marital or shared home and/or ordering the abuser to stay away from the victim and children. Domestic violence victims can also seek child support from their abusers in their local Family Court. Using a formula set forth in New York State's Child Support Standards Act, victims may also demonstrate the need for childcare expenses, extracurricular activities, and unreimbursed medical expenses. Every day, MSP receives calls from victims seeking legal representation in order of protection and child support cases in Family Court. The need greatly exceeds our resources.

Can Volunteers Work Off Site:

Type of Work: Order of Protection- Attorneys will work with the clients to assess and amend, if needed, the family offense petition the victim filed pro se (to request the order of protection) and will represent the victim at subsequent court dates in Westchester Family Court until final resolution. Child Support- Attorneys will work with the client to complete the required Financial Disclosure Affidavit and develop the case, including evaluating the evidence, conducting discovery, and representing the victim at the child support hearings.

Location, Days and Hours of Volunteer Opportunity:

Area of Substantive Law: Family, Domestic Violence

Supervision: Managing Attorney

Training: MSP will train, mentor and supervise teams of attorneys to assist victims in an order of protection or child custody case pre-screened by MSP.

REQUIREMENTS OF VOLUNTEER

Time Commitment: 60 hours over the course of 3-6 months, including multiple client meetings and appearances in Westchester County Family Court

Previous Experience in Substantive Law Required:

Specific/Previous Training Required: