

Job Title	Social Worker
Employer/ Agency	Travis County – Office of Child Representation
Job Description	<p>The Office of Child Representation provides high-quality legal representation and other support to children and youth involved in the Travis County child welfare system. The social worker will collaborate with staff attorneys to assist child-clients in suits filed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Social workers will build professional and trusting relationships with clients, assist attorneys in advocating for clients’ needs through knowledge of child development, trauma informed care, education, community resources, and case management.</p> <p>DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS: This is a job classification within the Social Services job family. This classification is distinguished from other social services classes due to the social work functions and services provided to clients. This classification performs case management, psychosocial and/or needs assessments, develops client service plans and accesses community resources to assist clients. This classification may require a flexible work schedule in order to meet the needs of the department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify community resources to assist clients including, but not limited to, medical resources, local, state and federal agencies, community-based agencies and other resources. • Maintain current knowledge about resource availability. • Use evidence based practices and remains current with standards of profession. • Participate and coordinate in case reviews involving client/family and other service providers. • Meet with the clients and caregivers in a setting appropriate to assess the client’s needs and goals. • Collaborate with the assigned attorney on a case plan and monitor progress. • Help identify appropriate placements for child clients in the community. • Attend court proceedings, negotiations, and mediations, as necessary. • Support clients in preparing for and participating in court proceedings, mediations, and out-of-court advocacy efforts. • Attend case planning meetings facilitated by the Department of Family and Protective Services, such as Permanency Conferences, Circles of Support, and Family Team Meetings, as well as educational, and other meetings. • Review all relevant records and case-related information including psychological, psychosocial, and psychiatric evaluations. • Participate in out-of-court advocacy with service providers, schools, placements, and DFPS. • Communicate regularly with case contacts, such as foster parents, kinship resources, DFPS case workers, service providers, and school personnel. • Complete individualized needs assessments. • Observe visitation between parents and children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain updated case data, client notes, and legal files. • Identify systemic issues and participate in advocacy efforts. • Performs other job-related duties as assigned.
<p>Qualifications</p>	<p>Minimum Requirements</p> <p><u>Education and Experience:</u> Master's degree in Social Work AND two (2) years social work experience counseling individuals in crisis/trauma situations.</p> <p>OR,</p> <p>Any combination of education and experience that has been achieved and is equivalent to the stated education and experience and required knowledge, skills, and abilities sufficient to successfully perform the duties and responsibilities of this job.</p> <p><u>Licenses, Registrations, Certifications, or Special Requirements:</u> Valid Texas Driver's License.</p> <p><u>Preferred:</u> Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW). Experience with the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Practical experience engaging with the client population. Ability to fluently speak and write in Spanish preferred but not required.</p> <p>Knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical constructs of human development and social work theory and practices. • Policies, practices, procedures and terminology of the Department of Family and Protective Services. • Local and statewide placement options for children in Department of Family and Protective Services conservatorship. • Local social services, organizations and the programs and resources available. • Therapeutic approaches, the impact of trauma on children, and trauma informed care. • Modern office practices, procedures, and methods. • May be required to develop knowledge of, and adhere to, federal and state laws requiring the confidential handling of client information. <p>Skill in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counseling and providing assistance to clients. • Assessing the medical, psychosocial and environmental status of clients. • Determining types of counseling, social services, education needs, and other services indicated for clients. • Counseling techniques used in trauma, grief, or crisis situations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewing and obtaining information from clients, service providers, and other sources. • Problem-solving and decision-making. • Both verbal and written communication. <p>Ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work as part of a collaborative team. • Accept and embrace the challenges inherent in the child welfare field. • Apply social work and counseling theory, practice, and procedures. • Work compassionately and respectfully with clients, relative caregivers, and foster parents. • Work effectively and courteously under high-pressure circumstances. • Prepare accurate and complete records and reports. • Demonstrate consistent, sound, and mature judgment. • Manage time well and meet timelines. • Communicate effectively. • Establish and maintain effective working relationships with DFPS, representatives of outside agencies, other County employees and officials, as well as the general public. • Travel to various areas in Austin and surrounding counties in Texas to visit clients. • Use current technology, including Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat, Dropbox, etc.
Salary/Hours	Work Hours: 8am - 5pm, Monday - Friday
Address	1700 Guadalupe, 5th Floor, Austin, Texas
Application Method	Apply Here: https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/traviscounty/jobs/4770130/social-worker?keywords=social%20worker&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs
Opening Date	Immediately

To post a job opportunity or if your response to this job posting results in successful employment, please email the GCSW Office of Alumni and Career Services at mswjobs@central.uh.edu with the hiring details of your new job opportunity. Thank you.