



Clinical Assessment Consultant: Job description

Juvenile Protective Association (JPA) is in search of a licensed psychologist (PsyD or PhD preferred) or licensed clinical social worker with expertise in clinical and forensic assessment, child development, parenting capacity, and knowledge of the child welfare system for our Permanency Planning Evaluation Program (PPE). This is a unique opportunity to be part of a team that makes recommendations to the juvenile court and DCFS that affect the entire life trajectory of a child in foster care.

The PPE Program provides independent clinical evaluations aimed at determining the best permanent home for a child involved with DCFS. The cases referred to JPA involve children and families in which there is considerable uncertainty and/or disagreements or conflicts among parties in court about what permanency option is in the best interest of a child and what are the best next steps in planning for permanency for the child. As a member of a collaborative team, the psychologist or social worker in this position will conduct semi-structured interviews and produce written reports from evaluations of all potential long-term caregivers (e.g., biological parents, relative or non-relative foster parents, others) and the quality of their relationships with a child or sibling group. Additional responsibilities include extensive record reviews, discussions with collaterals, home visits and observations and, when warranted by the case, standardized assessments. At times, it may be necessary for members of the team to testify in court regarding the evaluation and recommendations.

The ideal candidate will have at least five years of post-licensure experience, including working in child welfare and mental health; conducting semi-structured interviews and observations; and conducting qualitative assessments; excellent writing skills; the ability to incorporate child development, attachment relationships, and parenting practices into assessments and recommendations; and the capacity to work collaboratively with another psychologist and the social worker on the PPE team. In addition, it is important to have good time management skills/ability to meet deadlines, and to have your own malpractice insurance. He or she will be able to commit to approximately 30 hours per month, some of which will take place in the evenings and on weekends depending on our client's needs. Interviews and evaluations occur at both the office, as well as at locations throughout the Chicagoland area. Reliable transportation is necessary. The consultant is paid an hourly fee to be negotiated based on the candidate's qualifications and funding parameters.

Interested parties should email a letter of interest, CV and a writing sample to JPA Executive Vice President Dr. Stephen Budde, Juvenile Protective Association: sbudde@jpachicago.org. No phone calls, please. JPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.