



Our Mission:

To empower survivors of intimate partner violence by supporting them as they navigate the initial crisis and the civil and criminal remedies available to them and advocating for systemic reforms that ensure survivor safety and self-determination.

Our Organizing Principles:

SAFE's primary goal is to provide this advocacy and information at the moment of crisis for the client through intervention in the courts and immediately following a domestic violence incident using an empowerment model of client defined advocacy. Client-defined advocacy is a model that places the client as the expert and the decision-maker about their own lives using the information and facilitation provided by the advocate.

What skills do I need to be a volunteer?

- It is helpful to have knowledge and understanding of issues pertaining to violence against women and the legal system. However, our training will provide you with all of the information you need as well.
- Experience working with victims of violence, women's issues or counseling experience is also useful.
- Most importantly volunteers should be dedicated to learning about how to help victims of domestic violence.

How do I apply?

You can obtain a copy of our application form by visiting our website at www.dcsafe.org, or calling 202-879-7828.

The completed application and a resume should be emailed to safevolunteers@dcsafe.org, or mailed to:

SAFE Volunteers
PO Box 7412
Washington, DC 20044



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SAFE
Survivors and Advocates
for Empowerment

500 Indiana Ave NW
Room 4235
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-879-7851
Fax: 202-879-1191

www.dcsafe.org

Supporting and Empowering
Domestic Violence Survivors
Since 1997

Court Advocacy Program:

The Domestic Violence Intake Centers (DVICs) at the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and at the Greater Southeast Community Hospital are locations for victims and survivors of domestic violence to seek protection orders and criminal justice services.

SAFE's Court Advocacy Program staff provide crisis management to survivors accessing the DVICs for help, and supports them as they navigate the judicial system. Advocates serve as a direct link to community resources to assist victims in maintaining their safety and fulfilling immediate social service needs. SAFE interns aid in this process by assisting SAFE advocates with their individual caseloads and by taking on some of the advocate's direct job functions.

Court Advocacy Program Interns are recruited on a semester basis and commit a minimum of 15 hours per week. We will assist our interns in obtaining course credit for the internship if requested.

Our Programs and Volunteer Opportunities

Court Watch:

The Court Watch Program is intended to monitor court proceedings in the Domestic Violence Unit, specifically in the courtrooms that hear civil protection orders for domestic violence victims as well as criminal cases related to domestic violence incidents.

Volunteers observe cases and record information about the proceedings. The data is then used to determine the treatment of domestic violence victims in the court process and if abusers are being held accountable. The data is also used to make recommendations to the court and other agencies that work with domestic violence victims in the court process.

Court Watch Volunteers work as little as 4 hours per week and are recruited year round.

On-Call Advocacy Program:

The On-Call Advocacy Program was designed to help bridge the gap in services for victims of domestic violence during non-business hours. Advocates serve as a resource for victims in the 5th, 6th and 7th Police Districts of Washington, D.C.

Advocates meet with domestic violence victims and provide immediate direct services through crisis management and safety planning.

Advocates also provide:

- Emotional support and information about the judicial process;
- Information on and referrals to social service programs;
- Assistance with emergency housing and transportation needs;
- And assistance in applying for Emergency Temporary Protection Orders.

On-Call Advocates work in pairs and work as little as twice a month on nights and weekends. Volunteers are recruited year round and are provided with full training and supplies.