

Marion County Public Defender Agency
CHINS/TPR Attorney (Attorney I and Attorney II)

Position Summary

Position is responsible for providing effective, client-centered representation of indigent parents in Child in Need of Services and Termination of Parental Rights cases filed by the Indiana Department of Child Services in Marion County.

Position Responsibility

Appears frequently in court to advocate for parents involved with the child welfare system through CHINS and TPR cases, including pre-trial advocacy, bench trials, and post-adjudication advocacy in CHINS matters.

Conducts legal and factual review of cases; interviews clients, service providers, and other witnesses; evaluates legal and factual strength of CHINS and TPR cases.

Advises clients regarding both legal matters and practical considerations in navigating the child welfare system to prevent family separation, to reunify families separated through the child welfare system, and to successfully conclude parents' involvement with the Department of Child Services.

Negotiates with Department of Child Services and advocates for parents with service providers and others to achieve parents' objectives in child welfare matters and to limit the harm to families caused by involvement with the child welfare system.

Communicates frequently with clients in person, by phone or video conference, and in written communications; keeps clients and families informed regarding case progress and developments.

Collaborates with social workers on multi-disciplinary strategies to achieve client's objectives.

Delegates assignments to paralegals and investigations when appropriate.

This list of duties and responsibilities is not intended to be all-inclusive and may be expanded to include other duties or responsibilities that management may deem necessary from time to time.

Qualifications

CHINS/TPR Attorney I: Bachelor's degree, law degree, and Indiana attorney licensure required. Strong verbal, written, communication and presentation skills are required along with top-level interpersonal, mediation, and facilitation skills. Computer knowledge is a must. Must have valid Indiana Driver's License.

CHINS/TPR Attorney II: Bachelor's degree, law degree and Indiana attorney licensure required. Prior experience in CHINS/TPR work for at least one year and experience having taken a termination of

parental rights case through trial as a first- or second-chair attorney. Strong verbal, written, communication and presentation skills are required along with top-level interpersonal, mediation, and facilitation skills. Computer knowledge is a must. Must have valid Indiana Driver's License.

Independent Judgment

Independent Judgment is regularly utilized when there are no available policies and procedures. Independent actions and judgment are exercised in making decisions that are complex in nature and have considerable impact on Public Defender Agency policy. Decisions and actions may be controlled by state and federal laws. The actions and decision-making process allow for considerable latitude in making informed judgments, quick decisions or decisions without the benefit of consultation. The incumbent is expected to exercise initiative, creativity and independent problem-solving skills.

Apply at: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/Indianapolis>

For more information, contact CHINS/TPR Division Chief Heather Edmands, heather.edmands@indy.gov