

Medical Accompaniment Volunteer Advocate

Eligibility Requirements

- Over the age of 18
- Submit volunteer application
- Complete Interview Process
- Complete 40-hour advocacy training
- Sign all confidentiality and ethics agreements, and other SAOP paperwork
- Background check on file

Responsibilities

- Provide advocacy in the hospital setting, including SAFE exam
- Assist in setting up follow-up medical appointments
- Accompany survivor to follow-up medical appointments
- Follow all protocols learned in the Hospital Advocacy training
- Provide advocacy to co-survivors
- First call: shadow staff
- Second call: lead the accompaniment while staff shadows
- Third call: On your own
- 6 month commitment
- Unpaid position
- Monthly supervision calls with Volunteer Coordinator
- Complete all paperwork by the deadlines required
- Important note: Because of the unpredictable nature of hospital calls, SAOP cannot guarantee that the opportunity to go to the hospital will happen.

Leave of Absence

- Volunteers are welcome to take a leave of absence. No justification is necessary, just clear communication with the Volunteer Coordinator about expectations.

Disciplinary Actions

- Terminable actions include:
 - Conducting yourself in an unprofessional manner
 - Providing advocacy while intoxicated
 - Providing unethical advocacy
 - Breaking confidentiality
 - Other situations deemed unacceptable by staff
 - Failure to turn in paperwork by required deadlines

Exit Evaluations

- At the end of the 6 month term, volunteer advocates may wish to renew their contract or exit the program.
- Whether they renew or leave, they will be required to fill out an exit evaluation for SAOP, and have a short exit interview.