



CONTEMPLATING CAREERS

Victim Advocate

Are you understanding? Are you nonjudgmental? Are you an excellent communicator? Can you be discrete and trustworthy? Can you be supportive to others and emotionally strong? Are you a problem solver?

If you answered yes to these questions, then a career as a victim advocate may be an ideal choice for you. Victim advocates assist crime victims in obtaining emergency medical treatment and other treatment needed immediately. Once a victim's immediate needs are met, the advocate ensures the victim has a safe place to stay, food, transportation, and other basic needs met.

The tasks of a victim advocate are numerous and may include educating the victim of his or her rights, assisting in interactions with law enforcement, supporting the victim during investigations,

accompany the victim to court, and other supporting roles. Each situation is different, and advocates must be nimble enough to address specific needs of victims.

Advocates are employed by a number of agencies, including police agencies, legal offices, hospitals, shelters, and the courts. Advocates frequently work with police even if they are not employed by a police agency. Education required is at least an associate's degree, but more likely a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, psychology, victimology, or social work.



Career Video:

A victim advocate discusses her experience and current issues in the field.