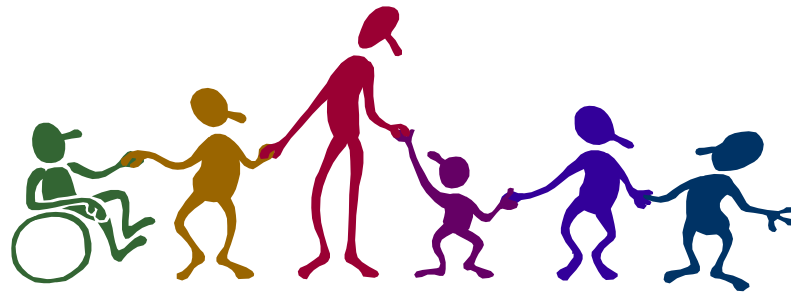


SOCIAL WORK IN CHILD WELFARE



BSW Student Intern Unit at the Division of Family & Youth Services (DFYS)

The Bachelor of Social Work Student Intern Unit is a partnership between the State of Alaska, Division of Family & Youth Services and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Social Work. This unit provides a supervisor to organize and supervise student educational experiences. As a student you will have practical, hands-on experience providing services for children and families. It is our goal that at the end of your practicum, you will possess the skills necessary to begin a career as a Child Welfare Worker in Alaska.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS

What is CPS?

Child Protective Services (CPS) seeks to identify, treat and reduce child abuse and neglect as well as to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to protect and maintain children in their own homes. DFYS staff provide protective services for children by:

- ◆ Assisting families in assessing and resolving problems.
- ◆ Investigating reports of abuse and neglect.
- ◆ Referring families to appropriate community resources.
- ◆ Initiating legal intervention if children are unable to remain safely in their own homes.
- ◆ Providing out-of-home placements and permanency planning when necessary for the health and safety of children.

What Is DFYS?

The Division of Family and Youth Services (DFYS) is part of the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services. The mission of this agency is:

“to protect children by preventing and remedying repeated abuse, neglect and the exploitation of children.”

What is the Educational Stipend Agreement?

The Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Family & Youth Services has established a program of educational support for Bachelor of Social Work candidates. Students who are selected into placement may receive a monthly stipend. In exchange, they agree to work for DFYS after graduation for an agreed upon length of time.

Do I have to accept the stipend to do a placement at DFYS?

It may be possible to do a non-stipend placement. This will depend upon staff resources at DFYS to provide adequate supervision.

What will I be doing as an Intern?

The placement is designed to give students as much direct case management experience and involvement with clients as is possible. Student Interns are provided with the necessary training and support to function as a CPS Social Worker. Training will be provided and opportunities available to experience the following areas:

- ◆ Child Abuse Investigations
- ◆ Identification of Abuse & Neglect
- ◆ Family Risk Assessment
- ◆ Case Planning & Documentation
- ◆ Legal & Court Proceedings
- ◆ Federal & State Child Abuse Laws
- ◆ Adoption & Home Studies
- ◆ Indian Child Welfare Act

How Do I Apply for a Placement?

Contact the University Field Placement Coordinator to make your request. All candidates interview with the Student Unit's field supervisor and at least one other DFYS staff member. A thorough background check will be conducted prior to final placement selection.

QUOTES FROM FORMER STUDENT INTERNS



“One of the hardest things about this placement is dealing with the reality of so many sad stories in children’s lives...One of the best things is realizing you can make a difference.”

YVONNE

“In this placement, you have the unique experience of having a supervisor exclusively for the students. I feel these makes the learning process less overwhelming, and makes interfacing with other staff much easier.”

ANNE

“I really didn’t think I’d like it at DFYS but I do. There is never a dull moment and every moment is a learning experience.”

PAT

“DFYS gives the MOST practical social work experience. I continue to learn more everyday I work here, and it continues to be interesting. As a college graduate, it will give you varied experience in the field and prepare you for any other form of social work you want to continue in.”

RETCHENDA

For More Information, Contact:

**Field Placement Coordinator, UAF Department of Social Work
(907) 474-7240**

Or

**Laurie Hildenbrand, UAF Student Intern Supervisor
Division of Family & Youth Services
UAF Department of Social Work
(907) 451-2055**

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