

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Attorney General



Vacancy Announcement: 15-020

SECTION CHIEF
Child Protection Section II, Family Services Division

Salary range: \$98,319-\$118,000* (LX-1 Band)

The Family Services Division of the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia is seeking a candidate for the position of Chief of Child Protection Section II. The Child Protection Sections provide representation in civil child abuse and neglect cases. The Sections are involved in all aspects of permanency planning for children alleged to be neglected. Child Protection Section attorneys represent the Child and Family Services Agency (“Agency”) in all proceedings from petitioning cases of children alleged to be neglected, through disposition, permanency and, when necessary, termination of parental rights proceedings.

The responsibilities of the Chief of CPS II include, but are not limited to:

- Supervising trial Assistant Attorneys General (“AAG”) in all aspects of civil prosecution of neglect proceedings, from filing of petitions alleging neglect, through adjudication of neglect, disposition and permanency hearings; and advocacy for the Agency in the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia;
- Monitoring compliance of AAGs with the Attorney General’s performance contract requirements, including response to contacts within 24 hours, successful litigation outcome rates and representation of the Agency;
- Assisting in providing legal services to the Agency to enable the Agency to carry out its statutory and court-ordered mandates under the *LaShawn* Consent Decree, pursuant to OAG Office Order No. 2004-34;
- In consultation with other Section Chiefs, ensuring proper case assignment, case transfers and coverage by AAGs to meet court, mediation, Child Advocacy Center, and other schedules;
- Reviewing and approving pleadings, motions, memoranda, and correspondence;
- Ensuring ASFA permanency goals and time-lines are met in the monitoring, filing and litigation of cases.
- Reviewing litigation outcomes and making timely recommendations where appellate review is needed;
- Maintaining such formal and informal contact with the Court, its staff and the Bar as may be requested, appropriate and beneficial professionally and to the work of the District of Columbia;
- Attending management meetings with the Deputy and Office of the Attorney General as requested, as well as attend such management and other specific meetings with CFSA, its units or personnel as necessary or requested;

- In coordination with the Deputy and other Section Chiefs, planning and/or conducting training for new AAGs and new social workers, and external training of AAGs in support of litigation and child protection/child welfare skill sets;
- Advising and counseling Agency social workers and other professionals from CFSA and resolving any disputes between AAGs and Agency social workers and/or their supervisors;
- Participating in RED team and other team meetings as necessary, and working with various multi-disciplinary team members;
- Attending such court, community and child protection team meetings as may be directed by the Deputy;
- Assisting in interviewing, reviewing, evaluating and, where necessary, disciplining AAGs, in accord with D.C. Rule of Professional Conduct and OAG standards and policies;
- Maintaining requisite legal, management, inter-agency, human relations and management-labor knowledge skills;
- Collecting, maintaining, and disseminating timely, accurate and up-to-date data on the Section's activities; and
- Collecting and tabulating various statistics regarding ASFA compliance as required by the Deputy, CSSP Court Monitor, D.C. Superior Court and Child and Family Services Agency including adjudications, monthly motions filings, maintenance of master case lists.

The successful candidate must have a law degree and be an active member in good standing of the bar of any jurisdiction. If you are not a member of the District of Columbia Bar, you must be sworn into the District of Columbia Bar within 360 days of your initial hire as an attorney with the bar.

The successful candidate must also have at least 3-5 years practice in civil child protection litigation; detailed familiarity with legal principles of the federal and District Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), Family Court Act of 2002, *LaShawn A v Bowser* litigation (Modified Final Order and Amended Implementation Plan), and the District Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, as amended; excellent oral and writing skills; and demonstrated ability to supervise and to direct the day-to-day activities of professional staff in a litigation-oriented entity.

Candidates for this position may be subject to a background check. This position is outside the Collective Bargaining Unit.

All applicants should submit a cover letter, which specifically addresses the applicant's experience in those areas listed in the qualification criteria, resume, writing sample, and list of three references. Applications should be submitted to Kim McDaniel, Director of EEO, Recruitment and Hiring, Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 441 Fourth Street, N.W., Suite 1100 South, Washington, D.C. 20001. **Closing Date: May 8, 2015.**

Please reference vacancy announcement number in your cover letter.

*** Salary in this range will be based on applicable rules, regulations and guidelines.**

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977, as amended, D.C. Official Code § 2-1401.01 et seq., the District of Columbia does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, family responsibilities, genetic information, matriculation, political affiliation, disability, source of income, or place of residence or business. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subjected to disciplinary action.