

WATCH VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Court Monitor Volunteer

PURPOSE: To monitor Hennepin County court cases involving domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or child abuse/neglect and to report significant data so that the information can be used to track individual cases as well as important trends. WATCH staff may use this information to communicate and/or disseminate it in WATCH newsletters and/or to those with the authority to change policies and procedures within the justice system.

LOCATION: The WATCH Office and the Hennepin County District Court

SUPERVISOR: Volunteer Coordinator

CONTACT: 612-341-2747; 608 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 465 NORTHSTAR EAST, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402. EMAIL: watch@watchmn.org.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. An interest in issues of violence, community activism, human rights, and the criminal and civil justice system.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Attend 6 hour training and orientation.
2. Follow WATCH court monitor guidelines while in the courthouse.
3. Attend court proceedings assigned by staff. This includes jury trials, hearings in civil court, domestic violence court and other criminal court hearings.
4. Complete all monitoring forms and debrief with WATCH staff about proceedings and experience in court.
5. Demonstrate awareness of WATCH issues in regards to institutionalized racism, classism, and sexism.
6. Demonstrate understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse.

EVALUATION: On-going; indicators are the quality of paperwork, adherence to courthouse and WATCH volunteer guidelines and policies, consistent attendance, and participation in WATCH sponsored activities.

BENEFITS: Unpaid. Helping to ensure the proper treatment of victims involved with the justice system, learning more about the dynamics of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse/neglect; helping improve the justice system's response to cases of violence against women and children; meeting people who share your ideas and values. *WATCH requests a \$25 fee to cover the cost of training materials. If you are unable to pay this amount you will not be excluded from volunteering.*

TIME COMMITMENT: Four hours a month (minimum) for one year.

THE MISSION OF WATCH IS TO MAKE THE JUSTICE SYSTEM MORE EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIVE IN HANDLING CASES OF VIOLENCE, PARTICULARLY AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN, AND TO CREATE A MORE INFORMED AND INVOLVED PUBLIC.