

### So, You Want to Be a.... Victim Advocate

#### **Introduction**

Victim advocates take practical, emotional, and legal avenues to support victims and witnesses of crimes. They help individuals process their experiences and return to a healthy life. Victim advocates generally enjoy serving others, demonstrate a mature emotional outlook, and thrive on solving complex problems. Victim advocates work with investigators, lawyers, and other criminal justice professionals to ensure the law serves those it is meant to protect. Victim advocates work in various settings, such as hospitals, shelters, non-profit groups, courthouses, police stations, legal offices, and social service offices.

#### **Types of Careers**

Domestic Violence Shelter Advocate  
Child/Adult/Family Advocate  
Forensic Interviewer  
Victim Advocate  
Case Navigator  
Case Manager  
Sexual Assault Specialist  
Social Worker (generally requires MSW)

#### **Education/Licensing**

An undergraduate degree in criminal justice, social work, psychology, and/or victimology is required. Many victim advocates also obtain a master's degree in criminal justice or another field to qualify for some positions, job advancement, and higher salaries.

#### **Other Requirements/Information**

Key skills for victim advocates include empathy, counseling, problem-solving, teamwork, and advocacy.

#### **For More Information**

[National Center for Victims of Crime](#)

[National Organization for Victim Assistance](#)

[National Organizations Supporting Crime Victims](#)