



On-Call Volunteer Victim Advocate Responsibilities

Training is provided for the position. The online portion of the training consists of 6 modules and should take about 12 hours to complete. These modules cover ethics, confidentiality, interpersonal communication, community collaboration, and much more. This is followed by reviewing the Victim Advocate Training Handbook, which will take about 6 hours. The handbook covers terminology, after-care options for survivors, on-call roles and protocols, and general tips for victim advocacy. Followed by a 2.5-hour Zoom call or in-person training with our Volunteer Coordinator, where you will go in-depth into what to expect during crisis and hospital calls. This portion of the training is entirely self-paced.

The volunteer position is as an On-Call Victim Advocate. The Volunteer Coordinator will send out the calendar for you to pick days that fit your schedule at the beginning of each month for the following month. Most volunteers sign up for 2-3 days a month, but if you would like to volunteer more days or fewer days, that is fine too. If you sign up for a weekday, the shift would be from 5 pm that day to 8:30 am the following day, and if it is a weekend day, the hours would be from 8:30 am that day to 8:30 am the next day. You would leave your phone on loud while on-call and continue your daily life! Just ensure you are no further than 45 minutes from the hospital and do not consume alcohol.

A basic description of the duties, which the Volunteer Coordinator will go into much more detail during a scheduled Zoom training in the future, would be that if the center gets a call, it will go to our answering service, and they will call your number. It will either be a crisis call or a hospital call. Crisis callers can range anywhere from survivors who need someone to talk to and listen to their story, survivors who need to know their medical, forensic, and legal options, survivors who are seeking therapeutic services, or community members who need a resource for something else; these typically last between 15 and 45 minutes. Hospital calls will be from Baptist Easley Hospital or Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens, typically lasting around 3 hours. You would have to get to the hospital within 45 minutes of the call and be there to advocate for the survivor of sexual assault and answer any questions they may have. There will be two sheets of paperwork for you to do at the hospital. We also offer clothes, snacks, and drinks to make the victim more comfortable. You will be there to empower the survivor, let them know their options for reporting, tell them they are doing a good job, ask if they need a break, and make sure everyone involved is complying with their wishes.

If you have any questions about the role and responsibilities of the On-Call Victim Advocate Volunteer opportunity, please reach out to acook@pcadvocacy.org.