

## **Functions of a Social Worker on Delinquency Cases**

Social workers should be able to provide strategic, litigation-focused, non-direct services to attorneys. The social worker can provide essential professional services necessary to improve the client's litigation position by assessing the needs of the client and developing an individualized, client driven plan necessary for the attorney to perform competent legal services for that client.

Some examples of possible services a social worker can provide include:

1. Interviewing the client and completing a needs assessment to assist the attorney with services-related litigation and other case advocacy.
2. Working with the client to develop a plan for services based on the needs assessment to assist the attorney with services-related litigation and other case advocacy.
3. Interviewing the client's family members and collaterals (e.g., teachers, therapists, and clergy) in order to gather information for potential use in bio-psychosocial assessments as well as to provide a comprehensive background to the attorney.
4. Maintaining contact with the client during various stages of the case in order to track potential changes in client needs (and therefore a change in services) in order to keep the attorney informed of case developments.
5. Making referrals to direct treatment services such services might include therapy, detox, residential placements, IOP, DV services, after-school programs, mentoring, job training (e.g., Job Corps, Youth Build). Such referrals would assist the attorney in litigation and other case advocacy.
6. Providing the client with information regarding, and referrals to, benefit programs (e.g., DTA, SSI, Housing, Mass Health) as requested by the attorney for case-strategic purposes.
7. Performing evaluation as needed by the attorney for case preparation, such as: bio-psychosocial assessments, aid in sentencing reports, and dispositional memos.
8. Attending DYS meetings (e.g., staffing, regional review team) to advocate for appropriate placement and treatment needs as directed by the attorney to assist the attorney with services-related litigation and other case advocacy.
9. Attending multi-systems meetings (e.g., DCF, DMH, CBHI, EOHHS) to advocate for appropriate placements and treatment needs as directed by the attorney to assist the attorney with services-related litigation and other case advocacy.
10. Meeting with witnesses/supports in order to help the attorney prepare for direct and cross-examination of those witnesses/supports.
11. Gathering, reviewing, and analyzing documents in order to assist the attorney with services-related litigation and other case advocacy.