FAMILY COURT ATTORNEY
Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services
Family Court Unit
Annual Salary Range: $87,864 - $115,884*
(*commensurate with experience)

The Onondaga County Social Services District, located in Syracuse, New York, is seeking attorneys to fill one or more vacancies in its Family Court Unit. The Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services Legal Division, part of the Onondaga County Social Services District, represents the Department in cases involving Family Court Act Article 10 proceedings, preventive and protective services, foster care, kinship guardianship, adoptions and more.

The Family Court Attorney represents the Department in family court and appellate litigation. The candidate selected will advise the Department's personnel at every level, from the Commissioner to case workers, and provide general supervision of paralegals, investigators and clerical staff.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: Represent the Department in family court matters involving child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption, kinship guardianship, custody and other related matters; research and advise staff on the legal aspects of the department's operations, including case preparation and witness testimony; consult with case workers and review petitions, orders, and other legal documents prior to submission; consult with and advise the Commissioner, supervisors, and other staff on legal issues and alternative courses of action; provide liaison with family court judges and the Commissioner; provide training to staff on requirements of court proceedings, the Family Court Act, Social Services Law, Domestic Relations Law and other applicable statutes, rules, and regulations..

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS: Knowledge of the Family Court Act, Social Services Law and other applicable laws, rules and regulations concerning the practice of family law; trial experience or the desire to gain such experience and knowledge; ability to efficiently gather facts through interview and investigation; ability to perform close, detail work, to meet court set deadlines, work well with others, and to independently manage your assigned case load. The candidate should possess integrity; good judgment; attention to detail and the ability to work in a team-oriented, collaborative environment.

Family Court Attorney I: Licensed and in good standing to practice law in the state of New York.
Family Court Attorney II: Licensed and in good standing to practice law in the state of New York, with at least one-year (ideally 2+ years) years of experience practicing family law in New York State, or other relevant experience.
Family Court Attorney III: Licensed and in good standing to practice law in the State of New York, with at least two (ideally 4+) years of experience practicing family law in New York State.

The position comes with an excellent benefit and leave package, including comprehensive health, dental and vision insurance, long term disability insurance, as well as NYS Retirement pension (defined pension) and other benefits. A 35-hour minimum work week, all public holidays and a team-oriented workplace. Employees qualify for student loan forgiveness pursuant to the federal public student loan forgiveness program (PSLF)

Please send resumes via mail or email to:

Bianca Tearney
Personnel Director for Department of Children and Family Services
Onondaga County Department of Children and Family Services
421 Montgomery Street, 6th Floor
Syracuse, NY 13202
Bianca.Tearney@dfa.state.ny.us

Please specify in your cover letter for which position you are applying.

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