

Public Defender Services'

Mitigation

Training For Social Workers

Public Defender Services is looking for Bachelor and Master level social workers who are interested in becoming trained as mitigation specialists, able to work on a contracted basis, as needed and if selected, for criminal defense attorneys across the State of West Virginia.

Training as a mitigation specialist takes a social worker's unique skills in approaching a client's background and life history and combines those skills with work for defense attorneys, writing reports for defense counsel as they prepare for their clients' sentencing, and by suggesting sentencing alternatives for their clients. Defense attorneys have a responsibility to present mitigation on behalf of their criminal defendants, and social workers inherently have the skills and training needed to investigate a person's life history and unmet needs, and to make recommendations for that person's treatment. These social workers function as mitigation specialists for attorneys.

Through this training social workers will learn (1) the history of mitigation and forensic social work; (2) how to perform a criminal defendant assessment; and (3) how to write a mitigation report.

Note: Training is not a guarantee for contracted work. A list of trained persons interested in mitigation work will be collected and posted on the Public Defender Services website for attorneys to reference.

If you are interested in being trained and available for contract mitigation work, [please sign up for one of our upcoming trainings](#), taking place every 6 months.
