



The Children's Aid Society of Toronto

Year 1 Practicum

Dates: January 10- May 31, 2024

The Children's Aid Society of Toronto provides child protection services, including investigation and ongoing services to families in Toronto, when there has been reported or verified concerns for children's safety.

There are two practicum opportunities:

Opportunity #1

Intake Branch

- The primary function of the Intake Branch is to receive and investigate reports of child maltreatment. It is the first point of contact for any member of the public across the city of Toronto who seeks to report concerns that a child is or may be in need of protection.
- The intake branch is comprised of three areas: 1) Telephone Intake, 2) Investigation and 3) Emergency After Hours Service (EAHS)
- The Intake Branch is centralized at 30 Isabella Street, although to limit travel time and meet clients in their local communities, many Intake staff work from designated offices in the community-based branches.
- The Intake Department provides services to children from birth to 16 years of age and their families. The main service provided is child protection at the Intake level which involves crisis intervention to brief counseling and referrals to other community services. Student will be working with a diverse range of populations and clinical issues.
- Student's learning opportunities include but are not limited to the following activities:
 - o Understand Ministry standards and agency policies regarding intake services to families;
 - o Work with a family from the first phone call all the way through the protection investigation to closing or transfer of file;
 - o Learn and understand in clinical intervention in one of each type of cases i.e. physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, substance use, mental health, domestic violence, etc.;
 - o Shadow either half or full day in telephone screening, family service, children's service, and child and youth services;
 - o Shadow a worker in attending court to observe the process- this should include the observation of the preparation of an affidavit and service if possible;
 - o Shadow a worker in the process of bringing children into the care of the Society;

- o Observe specialized programs within intake i.e. CYAC, and Domestic Violence Team
- o Complete standard paperwork including Case Notes, Referrals, Safety and Risk Assessments;

Opportunity #2

Community Based Ongoing Family Service Worker

Once an intake worker has completed the initial investigation and determined that child is in need of protection and further service is required, the case is transferred to one of the four Community-based Branches (North/West, Toronto and Scarborough) and a Family Service Worker is assigned.

The Family Service Worker provides CYFSA mandated intervention to protect children and strengthen families by assessing and counselling parents and children, referring to and advocating with other services on behalf of families, providing clinical case management, supporting children and families during transitions between in care and out of care services as well as managing court activities.

Student's learning opportunities include but are not limited to the following activities:

- o Understand Ministry standards and agency policies regarding ongoing services to families;
- o Participate in a meeting with a family where service plan is developed;
- o Understand the purposes of home visits and how to conduct private interviews with children/youth;
- o Learn about community supports available to clients and what Family Service Worker's role is in referring and working collaboratively with these services;
- o Gain experience and skills in working with clients from diverse communities;
- o Participate in a branch conference in which case decisions are made;
- o Participate in a Plan of Care meeting where the plan is for family reunification;
- o Participate in a supervision session between Family Service Worker and their supervisor;
- o Understand Family Service Worker's role in ongoing assessment of risk and determining any need for admission of children/youth to care;

- o Understand Ministry requirements and agency policies regarding Kinship and Alternate Dispute Resolution;
- o Be given the opportunity to carry their own cases, conducting home visits and completing documentations independently;
- o Contribute to the cohesive functioning of a team and to participate in formal and informal meetings to promote professional growth

Requirements:

- Placements will be a hybrid with students working from home, in the office and in the community.
- A valid Driver's License (G2 or G)
- A current Vulnerable Sector Police Check (valid within 1 year)

If you are interested in this practicum, please a resume to miri.ben.dat@utoronto.ca by **5 pm on November 16, 2023**.

Students registered with University of Toronto Accessibility Services may receive appropriate accommodations for practicum settings. To register: <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/> or call 416-978-8060