

**The Collective of Child Welfare Survivors-
The Black Legal Action Centre**
Year 1 or Year 2 Practicum
Spring/Summer

Practicum Description and Activities:

Individual Advocacy

- We undertake individual advocacy when requested by a child, young person, family member, community member, foster carer, kinship carer or service provider;
- Student placement individual advocates will be assigned a case(s) to work alongside children, youth, and adult carers to facilitate knowledge growth and interdependence, ensure their rights, views, and experiences are heard and respected, and to ensure better outcomes when interacting with child welfare;
- Conduct intake interviews alongside supervisor;
- Case noting and documentation such as letter writing;
- Regularly meet with clients (virtual/by phone);
- Meet with Children's Aid Societies and any other relevant agencies;
- Review CAS Service Plans, legal documents, and any other documents relevant to case;
- Advocacy plan alongside client.

Community Development & Outreach

- Support in the development of workshop and public education materials;
- Support in systemic organizing projects;
- Train incoming volunteers and employees if needed;
- Support/supervise volunteer individual advocates in their one-on-one cases;
- Develop and update outreach materials;
- Outreach, develop, and meet with community partners and organizations;
- Develop and facilitate workshop and public education in various settings, including

community and academic requests;

- Provide and facilitate community spaces directly with child welfare survivors on various topics.

Systemic Organizing

- Develop and connect with organizations that could develop into a coalition related to an issue;
- Author public position papers, reports, and statements;
- Research relevant materials, documents, etc. to use in systemic organizing methods;
- Create and implement campaign plans;

Practicum Requirements:

- Practicum secured for BIPOC, LGBTQ2, gender diverse students

Field(s) of this Practicum

- Children and Their Families
- Social Justice and Diversity

Do you require any previous experience?

- Be at least 18+ years of age;
- Good research reading and writing skills;
- Familiar with Google Workspace (Docs, Slides, Excel);
- Excellent communication skills;
- Familiar with academic research search engines;
- Adequate understanding of child welfare laws, policies, institutions, and programs, as well as the ongoing issues within child welfare;
- Adequate understanding of classism, sexism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, sadism, xenophobia, anti-Islamophobia;
- Access to a computer and cellphone/telephone.
- Excellent multitasking skills and time management skills

- Preferred skills:

- Experience working in advocacy/support role for children, youth and/or families;
- Preference for child welfare survivors, families/adult carers with experience navigating child welfare;
- Experience developing workshops, public speaking, and providing public education materials;
- Experience working in advocacy policy and project development, particularly with vulnerable and precarious populations (preference for child welfare survivors and families);

Please indicate whether this practicum will be in-person, remote or a hybrid

Placement is remote, however there is the possibility of in-person opportunities which would be discussed with the student as they come

Please indicate whether this practicum will involve direct work, indirect work, or both

This practicum is both direct/indirect. Direct client work includes individual advocacy cases and running community group spaces

Accessibility Considerations:

- Will the student have access to a private space for notes or computer use? remote
- Are there breaks between clients/patients/meetings? Yes, remote
- Is the practicum considered fast-paced? no
- Is there a high noise level in the practicum? no
- Is the site wheelchair accessible? remote
- What are the physical demands of the practicum? remote
- Are there any other accessibility considerations that potential applicants with disabilities should be aware of? Engaging online

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

If you are interested in this practicum, please send a cover letter and resume to miri.ben.dat@utoronto.ca by 4pm Thursday February 29, 2024. Applications will be forwarded on to the site.