



**The Children's Aid Society of Toronto**

Year 2 Practicum

September 2024-April 2025

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 Worker**

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**

### **Children's Service – Child and Youth Services**

- Child and Youth Services provide services to children and youth in the care of the Children's Aid Society.
- This branch is located at 30 Isabella Street in Toronto.
- Through Extended Care and Maintenance, the Branch provides services to youth until their 21st birthday.
- Child and Youth Services strive to help children and youth reach their maximum potential by affecting positive changes. This is achieved by celebrating the unique individuality of each child/youth and through professional integrity, personal commitment, advocacy, expertise and experience, as well as mentoring, support and guidance.
- The branch works collaboratively with birth families, substitute caregivers, and community partners to ensure best practices to our children and youth in care.

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

- Learn and understand Ministry Requirements and Guidelines that apply to looking after children in long term care;
- Learn and understand Child/Youth's Rights and Responsibilities;
- Learn and understand Children Service Worker's role of a guardian to Crown Ward children and youth;
- Learn and understand the impact of abuse and neglect on child development;
- Learn and understand the importance of team work, including positive working relationship between Children Service Worker and child's substitute caregiver as well as other professionals involved;
- Gain experience and skills in working with clients from diverse communities;

- Participate in Plan of Care Meetings;
- Participate in Placement Meeting and Access Visits;
- Develop skills in building positive relationships with children and youth;
- Develop skills in engaging children, families and community providers in developing permanency plans;
- Learn and develop skills in interviewing and conflict resolution, advocacy, writing clinical summaries as well as other Ministry required documentation for children in care;
- Learn and understand important issues for child and youth in care such as education, housing, mental health, YCJA and immigration;
- Contribute to the cohesive functioning of a team and to participate in formal and informal meetings to promote professional growth.

**This practicum is for student in the Children and Their Families Field of Study.**

**Practicum 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](mailto:miri.ben.dat@utoronto.ca) by **5 pm on April 8, 2024. Please indicate which position you are applying to.**

Students registered with University of Toronto Accessibility Services may receive appropriate accommodations for practicum settings. To register:

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/accessibility-services/> or call 416-978-8060