

Job Title: Family Advocate Support Line Lawyer

Reports to: Executive Director

Term: Five-month contract position to cover parental leave. The position is 15 hours/week, at \$1245/week + taxes.

All work can be completed remotely. We encourage applicants outside the Lower Mainland to apply.

This position is expected to commence June 21, 2021 and end November 30, 2021.

Closing Date: **May 21, 2021**

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Job Summary:

Rise Women's Legal Centre is a community legal clinic providing accessible legal services that are responsive to the unique needs of self-identifying women. Rise clients are often caught in the gap between being ineligible for legal aid yet unable to afford legal representation. Rise provides unbundled legal services, primarily in the area of family law. Most direct services to clients are provided through Rise's Student Clinic, which provides a clinical legal externship for up to six law students from the Peter A. Allard School of Law, although clients also receive services from volunteer lawyers through the Virtual Legal Clinic.

The Family Advocate Support Line provides legal support to Law Foundation-funded family law advocates and other frontline workers, including transition home staff and settlement workers, by answering questions by telephone and email. FASL does not provide any direct services to clients, and instead focuses on coaching workers in community organisations who are assisting low-income clients and providing legal education and summary level advice.

As the role is to provide legal support to advocates, the general expectation is that the lawyer will be available for questions approximately 3 hours per day, although we can provide some flexibility to accommodate court schedules.

Essential Responsibilities

- provide services by email and telephone to family law advocates and other frontline service providers throughout BC; FASL services include but are not limited to:
 - addressing ethical and file management issues
 - providing legal information and advice to advocates and support workers on client files
 - proofreading and editing client documents prepared by advocates or support workers
 - researching case law
 - creating and sharing precedents
- may work with Rise Case Manager and Virtual Legal Clinic Lawyer to provide a continuum of services to clients
- maintain accurate time-keeping records, statistical information and activity reports, and fulfill such administrative responsibilities as may be required by Rise's Executive Director

Working Conditions:

- part-time position, 15 hours per week
- all work in this position can be completed remotely

Qualifications:

- be licensed or eligible to practise law in British Columbia
- strong legal research, analysis, writing and advocacy skills
- expertise in family law, including knowledge of relevant legislation and regulations, Provincial Court and Supreme Court family rules and forms, laws of evidence and case law
- understanding of the role of advocates and an interest in the training and professional development of advocates
- ability to communicate effectively with advocates and service providers, and with members of community groups that advocate on behalf of marginalized people
- have practised law for 5 or more years, and preferably have experience managing files with limited resources
- experience and training in working with women who have experienced violence is an asset
- commitment to community-oriented lawyering that is responsive to community needs and enhances community participation

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Rise Women's Legal Centre is strongly committed to equity and diversity within its community. We especially welcome applications from Indigenous persons, people of colour, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities.

Please apply by **May 21, 2021** by sending your cover letter and resume in one PDF document to Kim Hawkins, Executive Director, at khawkins@womenslegalcentre.ca.