



OFFICE OF RESPONDENT
PARENTS' COUNSEL
Protecting the Fundamental Right to Parent

PART TIME INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR OPPORTUNITY

Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel

Contract Parent Advocates

Job Location: Statewide

Hourly Salary: \$33/hour

ABOUT THE ORPC

The ORPC's mission is to protect the fundamental right to parent by providing effective legal advocates for indigent parents in child welfare proceedings. This right is protected when a parent has a dedicated advocate knowledgeable about child welfare laws and willing to hold the state to its burden.

The ORPC seeks to amplify the parent voice by including Parent Advocates on ORPC interdisciplinary teams and in child welfare policy reform throughout the state. Interdisciplinary team representation is an effective best practice to keep families together, minimize the time children spend in out of home care, and to provide dignity to child welfare involved families. To learn more, visit <https://www.coloradoorpc.org/>.

PARENT ADVOCATE POSITION

The Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel first contracted with Parent Advocates in 2020. Parent Advocates are parents who have successfully navigated the child welfare system and utilize their lived experience and unique perspective to support parents who have open Dependency and Neglect (D&N) cases. Parent Advocates will participate in a series of virtual trainings to gain the practical knowledge and skills necessary to advocate successfully on parent defense teams. Parent Advocates will receive mentorship and supervision. Upon successful completion of the required training, Parent Advocates will work alongside court-appointed attorneys to support parents. The contract Parent Advocate is part of the legal defense team, adheres to the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct regarding attorney-client privilege and confidentiality. Contract Parent Advocate duties may include:

- Successfully complete a virtual Parent Advocate training curriculum
- Meet with attorneys to discuss case assignments and develop plans to engage parents
- Interact frequently and consistently with parents through face-to-face meetings, home visits, phone calls, text, and e-mail
- Effectively share their story to connect, engage, and motivate parents
- Research, share and help access community resources for parents
- Help parents to advocate for themselves and their families
- Support parents at critical meetings and appointments



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- Meet regularly with assigned mentors
- Collaborate with other professionals serving the family such as caseworkers, GALs and treatment providers
- Maintain client confidentiality as required the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct
- Collaborate with the ORPC on training, policy committee work, and legislative reform
- Maintain client files
- Follow ORPC Billing Policies
- Perform other duties as needed

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

Contract Parent Advocate shall perform their duties as an independent contractor and not as an employee. Neither Contract Parent Advocate nor any agent or employee of contract Parent Advocate shall be deemed to be an agent or employee of the State of Colorado. Contract Parent Advocate shall not have authorization, express or implied, to bind the State to any agreement, liability or understanding, except as expressly set forth herein. Contract Parent Advocate and its employees and agents are not entitled to unemployment insurance or workers compensation benefits through the State and the State shall not pay for or otherwise provide such coverage for contract Parent Advocate or any of its agents or employees. Contract Parent Advocate shall pay when due all applicable employment taxes and income taxes and local head taxes incurred pursuant to any contract which results from this Independent Contractor Opportunity.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Parent Advocate candidates must have personal lived experience navigating the child welfare system successfully. While the definition of success is fluid, the ORPC seeks to contract with parents who have closed child welfare cases where their children remained home or returned home at the case closure.
- Candidates will only be considered if their child welfare case has been closed successfully for at least 1 year by the time training begins in February 2022.
- Commitment to a minimum of 10 contract hours per week
- Ability to travel independently around the assigned counties
- Strongly committed to preserving, strengthening, and uplifting families
- Ability to learn and work independently
- Highly organized and attentive to deadlines
- Commitment to self-reflection and to sharing lived experiences with clients in a compassionate, motivating, and relevant way

This is an independent contractor position and does not include benefits. Independent Contractors will be reimbursed for mileage at the established state rate. Independent Contractors are expected to submit timely and accurate billing to the Office of Respondent Parents' Counsel. The ORPC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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HOW TO APPLY:

Candidates should submit applications here: <https://fs7.formsite.com/ORPCColorado/hasljtrrgm/index.html>. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Successful applicants will be contacted to schedule an interview.

If you have a question about your eligibility or the role, please contact MJ (Maleeka Jihad) at mjihadlaw@gmail.com or Jill Cohen at jcohen@coloradoorpc.org.