

Roles of a Social Worker

Typical roles & responsibilities of social workers in general, and in different fields of social work.

Contact us any time with questions at: [Socialworkportal.com/contact-us](https://socialworkportal.com/contact-us)



General Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities

These are roles that will typically be applicable across many different fields of social work.

Identify people or communities in need of assistance

Conduct assessments for clients
(needs, strengths, situation, and other types of assessments)

Make recommendations for helping the client with the problem situation

Create a plan for assisting the client and carry that out to help them adjust to challenges in life or overcome a crisis

Refer clients to community resources that can fill identified needs

Respond to crises

Provide services or therapy directly to clients

Document client assessments, plans, and engagements

Follow up with clients to ensure the situation has improved

Act as an advocate for the welfare of the client

Specific Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities

These are roles that are specific to different fields of social work.

Healthcare / Hospital Social Worker

- Participate in the development of the psychosocial support plan
- Identify, access, and coordinate recommended treatment and service providers
- Work collaboratively with providers, patients, and community agencies
- Conduct needs assessments
- Provide support to patients and their families and help them address medical concerns like transportation to an appointment, obtaining documentation, etc.
- Document activities in the medical record

Child & Family Social Worker

- Assess needs of clients and the risk of abuse/neglect
- Conduct investigations to determine whether clients are at risk
- Provide social services to prevent abuse and neglect
- Work to preserve families and community living
- Evaluate need for out of home placements for children or adults
- Work with and counsel clients
- Supervise family service/care providers and provide a support system
- Maintain confidential case records

Criminal Justice / Correctional Social Worker

- Act as a case manager for at-risk, on probation, or incarcerated individuals
- Do needs and strengths assessments
- Provide comprehensive plans for supervision
- Advocate on behalf of the client and their families
- Develop and broker community services where gaps exist
- Conduct pre-release assessments
- Prepare reports
- Participate in job-related training and workshops for clients

Specific Social Worker Roles & Responsibilities

These are roles that are specific to different fields of social work.

Mental Health Social Worker

- Perform care management remotely and/or through in-person visits to facilities or homes
- Use appropriate screening criteria and clinical judgment to assess client needs
- Develop care plans to address client needs and reach goals
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of a care plan and adjust the plan as needed
- Support client access to appropriate quality and cost-effective care
- Coordinate with internal and external resources to meet identified needs

Geriatric Social Worker

- Assist with admissions & complete client assessments
- Help the client and family transition to the new environment
- Participate in the development of the individual's care plan
- Encourage client and family to participate in care planning conferences
- Complete mandatory documentation
- Maintain regular and ongoing contact and relationship with client and client's family
- Facilitate resources that meet client needs
- Coordinate discharges and transfers for client

School Social Worker

- Provide mental health counseling services in both individual and group formats
- Conduct educationally related mental health assessments
- Complete progress monitoring documentation and progress reports
- Provide behavior interventions as part of a school-based team
- Consult with parents and team members
- Serve as an IEP (individualized education program) team member
- Advocate for students to get the assistance they need