A. BRIEF OVERVIEW OF AGENCY SETTING

The Missoula City/County Crime Victim Advocate (CVA) Program provides advocacy to victims of violent crimes through crisis counseling and support, resource referral, assistance with Orders of Protection, and connection to the criminal justice system as it prosecutes offenders. The office is located near City Hall and the Courthouse, where advocates frequently go to court with and for victims.

B. DESCRIPTION OF CLIENT GROUP

The program serves victims of personal crimes (domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, robbery, assault and homicide). It also provides support and advocacy for family members and friends who have been affected by these crimes.

C. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Students work directly with victims and assist them in filling out Temporary Orders of Protection (formerly known as Restraining Orders). Students will accompany the victim through the entire court process and have an opportunity to be present at the court hearing (20 days later). Students will use their skills in crisis counseling and follow an empowerment-based model when providing services to victims.

The student may elect to be involved in other projects or community outreach/networking as well.

D. EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

The CVA office is open Monday- Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Students must be able to complete a majority of their practicum hours during this time. Students have frequent and close contact with the coordinator, but need to work well independently and take initiative around the office. Expectations of students include completing the Crime Victim Advocate/ YWCA training and any follow-up training, acting in a reliable, non-judgmental, and non-victim blaming manner, and maintaining good relationships with criminal justice system professionals. Students must be able to uphold the program’s strict confidentiality policy and follow Crime Victim Advocate Program policies and procedures.