Volunteer Role: Court & Garda Accompaniment Volunteer

Organization: Rape Crisis Midwest

Location: Limerick/Clare/North Tipperary

Time Commitment: Flexible – dependant on court dates – usually Monday – Friday – 9-5

About Rape Crisis Midwest

Rape Crisis Midwest (RCM) works for the protection of all people from all forms of sexual violence and abuse. It primarily supports survivors of sexual abuse and violence through free, confidential support and counselling, working from an intersectional feminist framework. RCM deliver services utilising a survivor-centred and trauma-informed model. RCM operates from the knowledge that survivors have the capacity to grow and heal and that they are the experts in what they need. Survivor identified indicators of recovery and healing inform the way in which services are delivered and developed. A trauma-informed model means services are offered with the understanding that a survivor's reactions are a normal response to trauma. RCM believes that responding to sexual violence in our society and holding perpetrators to account starts with supporting survivors in ways that are respectful of their dignity, healing and choices. RCM works to hold perpetrators accountable for their behaviour and counteract rape culture and victim blaming. The headquarters for Rape Crisis Midwest services is in Limerick with satellite services in both Ennis and Nenagh. Our service delivery includes counselling; Garda and court accompaniment; advice, to both survivors, and their supporters; and sexual violence training to individuals and organisations. We work nationally in partnership with Cuan – the Domestic, Sexual & Gender Based Violence Agency and Rape Crisis Ireland.

Role Purpose

Court & Garda Accompaniment Volunteers provide emotional and practical support to survivors attending legal proceedings related to sexual violence. This presence helps reduce anxiety, reinforce the survivor's dignity, and promote their rights throughout the judicial process.

Key Responsibilities

- Accompany survivors to court hearings, trials, and related appointments
- Offer a calm, supportive, and non-judgmental presence
- Assist survivors in navigating court buildings and waiting areas
- Liaise with legal personnel when appropriate, maintaining survivor confidentiality
- Debrief with the survivor post-hearing and provide referral to further support services within RCM

Ideal Volunteer Profile

- Demonstrates empathy, emotional resilience, and discretion
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Comfortable in formal environments (e.g., courtrooms)
- Ability to remain calm in potentially stressful or upsetting situations
- Committed to survivor-centred, trauma-informed values
- Must be 21 or older and willing to undergo Garda vetting / background checks
- Availability during weekday business hours is essential
- Committed to the values of consent, empowerment, and survivor advocacy

What You'll Gain

- Professional Court Accompaniment training provided by RCM and training partners
- Direct experience supporting survivors in a meaningful way
- Knowledge of advocacy and legal processes
- Ongoing supervision, debriefing, and peer support
- Personal growth and confidence in frontline support roles
- A certificate of service and professional reference upon request

- The opportunity to contribute to a meaningful and urgent cause

How to Apply

Please contact us at info@rapecrisis.ie or 061 311 511 to express your interest and request a volunteer application form. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Note: All volunteers must complete process of Garda Vetting complete a short induction and agree to uphold our code of conduct regarding confidentiality, respect, and dignity for survivors.