To advocate for the safety, well being, and permanency of Florida’s children.

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Children’s Legal Services
Florida Department of Children and Families

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“Few people get the opportunity as a lawyer to use their legal training for a cause as important as advocating for children.”
Grainne O’Sullivan
Statewide Director, CLS
DCF Vision

To work in partnership with local communities to protect the vulnerable, promote strong and economically self-sufficient families, and advance personal and family recovery and resiliency.

About CLS

Children’s Legal Services (CLS) represents the State of Florida through the Department of Children and Families to ensure the health and safety of children and the integrity of families. Working with other department programs and community stakeholders, CLS advocates for the safety, security, and permanency of Florida’s abused, abandoned, and neglected children. With a team of more than 250 attorneys, CLS plays an integral role at each stage of a Chapter 39 proceeding. Across the state, CLS attorneys are dedicated to carrying out the mission and vision of the department.

Annual, Sick, and Holiday Leave

Paid vacation
On each anniversary date, you will be accredited 176 hours of annual leave.

Sick leave
On each anniversary date, you will be accredited 104 hours of sick leave.

Holiday Leave
Nine paid holidays during the year. In addition, each employee is granted one personal holiday.

Insurance and Retirement Plans

Insurance Plans
Employees can choose from a variety of health insurance plans.

Retirement Plans
The Florida Retirement System has two options.

Basic Life Insurance
As a full time employee, the state will pay 100 percent of the basic state sponsored life insurance plan. The benefit amount is $25,000 for all employees.

Bar Dues
Florida Bar annual dues are paid for by the Department, contingent upon agency approval.

Training
Because the best lawyers are always learning, CLS has instituted a year-round curriculum that includes an intensive, multi-day CLS New Attorney Training, bi-annual multi-day Advanced Litigation Academy, webinars, case law conference calls, practice pointers, and live training.

The Department of Children and Families Children’s Legal Services qualifies for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program.

Hiring Criteria

- Top 20 percent preferred
- High energy
- Strong interest in litigation
- Strong writing skills

We look forward to receiving your application, which should include a cover letter, resume, transcripts, writing sample, and a State of Florida application sent to our recruiting office.