



SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT ILLINOIS SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



Illinois School for the Deaf
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Social Work:

“Social work is the professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and creating societal conditions favorable to that goal.”

-National Association of
Social Workers, Standard for
Social Service Manpower
(Washington, DC: NASW, 1973)

Overview of responsibilities of ISD social workers:

- *Assess student needs in the area of social-emotional well being
- *Participates student's Eligibility Reviews, IEPs or Transition meetings
- *Provide individual counseling or group therapy for students
- *Provide regular contact and support to new students
- *Provide regular contact and support to students in temporary crisis
- *Work cooperatively with parents on issues impacting students
- *Conduct educational programs on social issues within the school and dorm setting
- *Provide support to staff who are working with students on social or emotional issues

*The vision of the
Illinois School for the Deaf
is to educate students to become
responsible, self supporting citizens.*

--- the first sentence of ISD's Vision Statement ---



BASIC Q & A

Q: How do I get social work services for my ISD student?

A: Contact your child's principal or the unit social worker to discuss your concerns. A team decision will be made regarding the specific needs your student may have for services.

Q: How do I know if my student needs social work services?

A: Students are seen for a variety of reasons. If you suspect your child needs to talk with someone regarding their social/emotion needs or on-going concerns, the social worker can help you and your student make a decision regarding the possible benefits of services.

Q: What happens in a counseling session?

A: A variety of counseling activities could occur, depending on the age and needs of the student. Generally sessions consist of discussion, but may also consist of role playing, writing, drawing or other activities that are deemed appropriate by the social worker.

Q: Will the social worker share with me what my child says during counseling?

A: Confidentiality is an important part of establishing trust during counseling. While the social worker cannot share details of discussions that take place, parents can be informed regarding the general progress that is taking place.



MEET OUR SOCIAL WORKERS

Tamara Hogue, M.S.W.

Tamara received both her Bachelor of Arts in social work and Masters of Social Work from Gallaudet University. She brings more than 28 years of experience to the department in the fields of mental health and social work with the deaf and hard of hearing population. Tamara provides services to High School students and their families.



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Stefanie Ortman, M.S.W.

Stefanie obtained her Bachelor of Arts in psychology from University of Illinois, in Springfield and her Masters of Social Work from St. Louis University. Stefanie brings 6 years of experience in the fields of mental health and social work to the department. Stefanie provides services to the Elementary and Jr. High students and their families, and assists in the High School as needed.



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