

# IGG Advocate (Post-Identification Family Support)

**Reports To:** Director of Advocacy (under Executive Director of Institutional Strategy & Culture)

**Commitment:** Flexible/As-needed (based on case identifications)

**Location:** Remote

**Status:** Volunteer (Uncompensated)

## Mission & Role Summary

The IGG Advocate is a specialized, compassionate role designed to bridge the information gap for families of unidentified human remains (John and Jane Does) once an identification has been made. Unlike our Family Advocates who work with families of the missing, the IGG Advocate focuses specifically on the families of the identified, providing direct education on the Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) process.

To maintain the highest ethical standards and investigative integrity, the IGG Advocate operates behind a strict "firewall": they will not have access to specific case information, nor will they have served as an IGG Researcher on the case in question. Their mission is to ensure that no family is left without answers regarding *how* their loved one was found, supporting them through the grief process by demystifying the technical journey from DNA sample to identification.

## Key Areas of Responsibility

### Process Education & Family Support

- **Educational Liaison:** Serve as a primary resource for families to explain the IGG pipeline, including DNA extraction, database uploading (into law enforcement-authorized databases), and the genealogical research that led to the identification.
- **General Process Guidance:** Provide clear, non-case-specific explanations of how "matches" are used to build trees and how those trees eventually lead to a candidate for identification.

- **Grief-Informed Communication:** Offer a stable, empathetic presence for families who may have more questions than law enforcement can answer regarding the methodology of the investigation.

## Agency & Law Enforcement Collaboration

- **LE Resource:** Act as a referral point for law enforcement agencies, allowing investigators to focus on the legal aspects of the case while the IGG Advocate handles the family's technical and process-oriented questions.
- **Boundary Management:** Strictly adhere to the mandate of never providing specific case details, investigative leads, or names of researchers, focusing solely on the "how" of IGG rather than the "who" of the case.

## Requirements & Vetting

- **Technical Literacy:** A strong working knowledge of IGG methodologies, including an understanding of centimorgans, DNA segments, and traditional genealogical proof standards.
- **Security & Ethics Mandate:** Must have access to a reliable, private internet connection and a password-protected personal computer. Must strictly adhere to the organization's Code of Ethics and maintain the mandatory "firewall" between advocacy and active investigative research.
- **Vetting:** Offer of service is dependent upon successfully passing a comprehensive background check.
- **Advocacy Training:** Must have prior experience in victim advocacy or a commitment to complete the Compass victim advocacy education program.

## Qualifications & Desired Attributes

- **Empathetic Communication:** Exceptional capacity for active listening and the ability to translate complex, sensitive technical data into understandable terms for grieving families.
  - **Emotional Resilience:** Ability to maintain professional boundaries while working in high-impact, emotionally sensitive situations.
  - **Commitment to Growth:** Willingness to participate in continuing professional development to stay current on both IGG trends and advocacy best practices.
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- **Inclusivity:** Ability to work respectfully with families from diverse backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences.