



Let's talk about

Advocacy Policy

Easy Read English



About this document



ADVOCACY IS THE ACT OF HELPING A PERSON GET WHAT THEY NEED.

THERE MAY BE TIMES WHEN YOU WILL NEED THE HELP OF AN ADVOCATE.



WE WILL ALWAYS HELP YOU TO GET AN ADVOCATE IF YOU NEED ONE.



THIS DOCUMENT WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND:

- WHAT ADVOCATES ARE AND WHAT THEY DO
- WHAT ADVOCATES CANNOT DO
- HOW WE CAN HELP
- HOW TO FIND AN ADVOCATE.

What is an advocate?

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|  | <p>AN ADVOCATE IS A PERSON WHO CAN HELP YOU STAND UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS.</p> |
|  | <p>ADVOCATES WILL WORK WITH YOU TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU NEED AND WHAT YOU WANT.</p> |
|  | <p>AN ADVOCATE MUST BE A PERSON THAT YOU KNOW AND TRUST.</p> |

Who can be an advocate?

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|  | <p>THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE THAT CAN BE AN ADVOCATE.</p> |
|  | <p>A FAMILY MEMBER CAN BE YOUR ADVOCATE.</p> |
|  | <p>A PERSON FROM AN OUTSIDE ADVOCACY GROUP CAN BE YOUR ADVOCATE.</p> |
|  | <p>A PERSON FROM A LEGAL ORGANISATION (LIKE A LAWYER) CAN BE YOUR ADVOCATE.</p> |

What can advocates do?

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|  | ADVOCATES WILL ALWAYS MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE SAFE AND HAVE WHAT YOU NEED. |
|  | ADVOCATES CAN HELP YOU ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF. |
|  | ADVOCATES CAN HELP YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU NEED. |
|  | ADVOCATES CAN SAY SOMETHING FOR YOU. |
|  | ADVOCATES CAN HELP YOU WRITE AND SIGN PAPERS. |
|  | ADVOCATES CAN HELP YOU REPORT INCIDENTS AND MAKE COMPLAINTS. |

What can advocates not do?

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|  A black silhouette of a hand with the index finger pointing up. To the right of the hand is a circle with a diagonal slash through it, indicating prohibition or 'no'. | <p>THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ADVOCATES CANNOT DO.</p> |
|  A black silhouette of a person's head and shoulders with a stethoscope around their neck. To the right is a circle containing a plus sign, which is crossed out with a diagonal slash, indicating that advocates cannot provide medical help. | <p>AN ADVOCATE CANNOT HELP YOU WITH YOUR HEALTH TREATMENTS.</p> |
|  A black silhouette of three people sitting at a table, holding hands. This icon represents mediation or acting as a go-between. | <p>AN ADVOCATE CANNOT ACT AS A GO-BETWEEN WHEN RESOLVING PROBLEMS.</p> |
|  A black silhouette of a person standing with their arms outstretched. The left hand holds a circle with a diagonal slash (crossed-out 'X'), and the right hand holds a checkmark. This represents making decisions for others. | <p>AN ADVOCATE CANNOT MAKE DECISIONS FOR A DIFFERENT PERSON (IF THEY ARE NOT THEIR ADVOCATE).</p> |

How will we help you?

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|  An icon showing a person standing at the front of a room, pointing towards a whiteboard. Below them are three smaller icons representing an audience. | <p>WE HAVE LET OUR WORKERS KNOW WHEN AN ADVOCATE MIGHT BE NEEDED.</p> |
|  An icon of a hand pointing upwards between two circular options: one with a checkmark and one with an 'X'. | <p>YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE. WE WILL HELP YOU WITH THIS.</p> |
|  An icon of a person standing on a three-tiered podium with their arms raised in celebration. | <p>WE WILL HELP YOU IF YOU WANT TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE• GET A NEW ADVOCATE• STOP ADVOCACY SERVICES. |
|  An icon of two stylized human figures standing and shaking hands. | <p>WE WILL WORK WITH YOUR CHOSEN ADVOCATE.</p> |

How to find an advocate

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|  | <p>WE WILL HELP YOU TO FIND AND CONTACT YOUR CHOSEN ADVOCATE.</p> |
|  | <p>YOU CAN ASK ONE OF OUR WORKERS ABOUT WHERE YOU CAN FIND AN ADVOCATE.</p> |
|  | <p>YOU CAN USE GOOGLE AND THE <u>DISABILITY ADVOCACY FINDER TOOL</u> TO LOOK FOR ADVOCATES NEAR YOU.</p> |
|  | <p>YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT THAT IS IN CHARGE OF ADVOCACY IN YOUR STATE.</p> |
|  | <p>A FULL LIST OF SERVICES IN EACH STATE CAN BE FOUND ON THE <u>NDIS WEBSITE</u>.</p> |