

What is a Parent Advocacy?



Parent Advocacy supports parents who are involved in **child protection** and **family care proceedings**.

Advocacy is free, independent and confidential.

What does a Parent Advocate do?



An advocate can help you to go to different types of important meetings.

These are some of the meetings an advocate can come to:

- ✓ Child Protection Conferences
- ✓ Core Group meetings
- ✓ Care Planning meetings
- ✓ Solicitor appointments
- ✓ Court hearings



An advocate will make sure that your **voice is heard** within the process you might be going through.



An advocate will help you to understand and **stand up** for your **rights**.



An advocate can also help you to:

- ✓ understand information from professionals
- ✓ be involved in meetings
- ✓ make decisions which are best for you
- ✓ find a solicitor if you need to



An advocate will help you to **self-advocate** as much as you want to. **Self-advocacy** means that you say what is important to you and what your views and wishes are.



Advocates are **not** support workers, counsellors, befrienders and will not give any legal advice or legal support.

When can I have a Parent Advocate?



You can have support from an advocate if you are going through **child protection** and **family court proceedings** and you have:

- ✓ a learning difficulty
- ✓ a learning disability
- ✓ autism
- ✓ mental health issues