

## THE ADVOCACY PROCESS

- ✓ You make initial contact with the Advocacy Service.
- ✓ Meet with the advocate to discuss the advocacy case
- ✓ You will agree an action plan with your advocate based on your goals.
- ✓ Ideally your advocate will provide you with information or support to resolve the issue at hand
- ✓ Your advocate may need to look into the issue further and make contact with relevant others if necessary and report back to you. You will be asked to sign some documents to allow the advocate to do this.
- ✓ The case will be closed when the advocacy issue is solved.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

Your right to privacy and confidentiality is important to us. All information obtained by the advocacy service will be treated in the strictest confidence and will not be shared with your family, friends or service providers. However your permission may be sought to obtain or pass on personal information to further your advocacy case. Any information shared will be on a need to know basis. Your advocate will discuss confidentiality with you at your initial meeting.

## POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Asperger Syndrome Advocacy Service has in place a number of policies to safeguard both advocate and client Including;

- ✓ Service Code of Practice
- ✓ Comments & Complaints
- ✓ Capacity and Consent
- ✓ Data Protection & Confidentiality
- ✓ Home Visitation
- ✓ Conflict of Interest

### Contact Details

You can find more information online at:  
[www.aspergersupport.ie](http://www.aspergersupport.ie)

For further information or to discuss an issue with an advocate please feel free to contact us.

Asperger Syndrome Advocacy Service,  
The Atrium,  
Mount Pleasant Business Centre,  
Ranelagh,  
Dublin 6.

Mobile: (086) 365 8885

Mail to: [advocacy.tuiscint@gmail.com](mailto:advocacy.tuiscint@gmail.com)



The logo was devised by a participant of EVE Limited Tuiscint. The caption he chose for the image is: Asperger Syndrome Advocacy Service – Helping People Blossom.

# Asperger Syndrome Advocacy Service



RIGHTS  
ENTITLEMENTS  
EMPOWERMENT  
&  
ADVOCACY

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Pilot project funded by the Citizens  
Information Board  
in partnership with EVE Limited

## INTRODUCTION

The Asperger Syndrome Advocacy Service is a Pilot programme funded by the Citizens' Information Board and run in partnership with EVE Limited Tuiscint - a rehabilitative training day service specifically aimed at working with adults with Asperger Syndrome.

The objectives of the Asperger Syndrome Advocacy Service are:

- ✓ To provide an advocacy service to individuals with Asperger Syndrome within the Dublin area.
- ✓ To represent the needs of self advocates independently of other services.
- ✓ To promote an awareness of advocacy issues in relation to individuals with Asperger Syndrome

## WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

Essentially advocacy is a means of empowering people to assert themselves and lay claim to their entitlements and where necessary and appropriate represent and negotiate on an individuals behalf.

## WHAT IS THE ADVOCATES' ROLE?

- ✓ To empower individuals by working with them to source and interpret information so they can make informed choices.
- ✓ To support individuals to speak up for themselves, or with consent, to speak up on behalf of those who are unable to do so themselves.
- ✓ To represent individuals interests independent of other interest groups and to work on behalf of the client in a manner that is professional and confidential.
- ✓ To act on behalf of the client to promote, protect and defend their welfare.

## WHAT AN ADVOCATE CAN DO

1. Help you to access your rights and entitlements.
2. Assist and support you in making decisions on housing, education, employment and health.
3. Support you to tell other people what **You** want.
4. Assist you to gather information on different services

5. Support you to attend meetings or on your request attend meetings with you or on your behalf.
6. Empower you to make your own choices and decisions.
7. Provide you with advice, information and support.

## WHAT AN ADVOCATE CAN NOT DO

1. Your advocate can **not** provide a legal or medical service. Your advocate will work with you to access such interventions
2. Your advocate will **not** make decisions on your behalf. They will support you to make your own.
3. Your advocate can **not** guarantee an emergency service. You may need to be placed on a waiting list.
4. Your advocate can **not** offer a permanent support service once the advocacy issue has been addressed. You can use the service again if you need help when further issues arise