

Reasons Why You Would Call an Independent Advocate

- Suspect abuse or neglect within our own organization
- An independent advocate when rights appear to be violated
- To settle disputes as an unofficial mediator between consumer, family, and provider (including the Board)
- Assistance with IEP or ISP
- Disagreements regarding self determination
- Referral when a person is found ineligible for CCBMR services
- When people need more nurturing and support than you have time for
- Neutral listener not tied to funding for services
- When you can't seem to "reach" the person
- When the person plans to move out of state and needs contacts (Arc is nationwide)
- If systems advocacy is needed (letters, calls, political action)
- Simply another "ear" to brainstorm with—for yourself or for consumers
- Assist in networking process and in finding support as with Prader-Willi or Upside of Downs
- Opportunity for self-advocacy through People First
- To link with community training programs like "Making Choices; Opening Doors"
- To help an individual to be "heard"
- To develop a lifelong advocacy plan or to get links to legal or planning services