

Your rights

- If a decision is being made about your life, you have the right to say what you think.
- You have the right to extra support at school if you need it.
- You have the right to be safe and protected from harm.
- You have the right to play.
- If you have a disability, you have the right to be supported to lead the kind of life you would like.
- Everyone has the right to be treated equally.



If you would like this leaflet in a different format or further information about advocacy or about the SIAA please contact us.



Scottish
**Independent
Advocacy**
Alliance

www.siaa.org.uk



The Scottish
Government



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What is

independent
advocacy?

Information for young people and
children on independent advocacy

What is an independent advocate?

- An independent advocate is there to support you to have your say.
- An independent advocate works just for you and makes sure your views are listened to and your voice is heard.
- They will help you make choices but will not tell you what you should do. Instead they will help you look at and understand all your options and then help you to tell people what you want and your reasons why.
- An independent advocate will be honest with you and will not pass on anything you have told them without your permission unless they are concerned about your, or someone else's safety.



How could an independent advocate help me?

- They can listen to you and help you think about what you want to happen.
- They can meet you before meetings like a Hearing to help you prepare and discuss what you would like to say or write down in a report.
- They can talk through what might happen at a meeting to help make sure you are involved in the decisions made about you.
- They can support you to speak at meetings or talk to someone like your social worker or other professionals involved in your life.
- They can help you to find out about other forms of help or services you might want.



How do you find an independent advocate?

- Ask your social worker or Children's Hearing.
- The SIAA website has a section called Find an advocate. You can use this tool to search for advocacy in your local area.
- To find out more speak to the SIAA or to your local independent advocacy organisation.

**Independent advocacy
puts you first**

Find out more at
www.siaa.org.uk

