



How can an advocate support me at Adult Protection meetings?



Alternative Formats

Information about Fife Council can be made available in large print, braille, audio CD/tape and Gaelic on request by calling **03451 55 55 00**



British Sign Language

please text (SMS) 07781 480 185



BT Text Direct:

18001 01592 55 11 91

Language lines

Arabic

خط هاتف اللغة العربية: 03451 55 55 77

Bengali

বাংলায় আলাপ করার জন্য টেলিফোন লাইন: 03451 55 55 99

Cantonese

中文語言熱線電話: 03451 55 55 88

Polish

Polskojęzyczna linia telefoniczna: 03451 55 55 44

Urdu

اُردو زبان کے لیے ٹیلیفون نمبر 03451 55 55 66

Fife Adult Protection Phone Line

01383 602200

What is Adult Protection?



All adults have a right to be safe and free from harm.

Adult Protection policies and laws help support and protect adults in Scotland who are at risk from harm.



If you are going through the Adult Protection process you might be called an 'adult at risk'.

The Council must check when they are told that someone is being harmed.



Social Work staff and other professionals will work closely with the adult at risk to agree what is the best thing to do.



What is advocacy?

Advocacy supports you to speak up about things that are important to you.

It helps you to have your views heard.



You might need support to take part in meetings.

What does an advocate do?



Listens to you.

Will speak up for you or be with you at a meeting if you find it difficult to say what you want.



Finds the right information to help you make choices and decisions and understand your rights.



Supports you to let people know about things that are worrying you.



Will always check they understood you correctly and know exactly what you want to say.



Will keep things private unless:

- they are worried about your safety or the safety of others, or
- the law is being broken or is going to be broken.



Circles Network advocates cannot ignore information about abuse, self harm or breaking the law and must tell Police and/or Social Work.

Who could help?



Circles Network are an independent advocacy organisation.

This means that Circles staff do not work for social work, health, housing, education, or any of the other services that people might need.

Circles Network can find you an advocate if you are aged 16 or older.

Circles Network advocates have supported a lot of people with Adult Protection issues.



What if I already have an advocate?

It is your choice if you want to continue with the support from your own advocate, or have an advocate from Circles as well.

Circles are happy to provide advice to advocates from other organisations.



Sean's story



“My Community Learning Disability Nurse told me about advocacy.

I've had an advocate since 2014.



The advocate supported me with lots of different issues, and gave me confidence.

The advocate supported me at appointments and meetings.



If you're confused or don't know what to say, the advocate supports you to speak up.

It would have been a lot harder without them.



Having an advocate has made a big difference to me and I can now speak up at meetings.

An advocate is a great thing to have.”

How does advocacy work?

Circles Network advocates use the word 'introduction' rather than 'referral'.



Circles Network can accept introductions from individuals or from family members, carers, social workers, NHS staff or other professionals.



Circles Network will contact you in three to five days, introduce themselves and find out if you are happy that the introduction has been made.

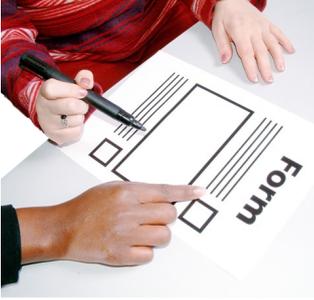
Circles Network will then arrange to meet you to talk about how they can support you.



They can arrange to meet you wherever and whenever suits you best.

You can have an Advocate for as long as there is an issue that you need support with.

What is an Advocacy Agreement?



Circles Network will make an agreement with you.

The Advocacy Agreement tells you what to expect from the advocate, and what the advocate expects from you.

It is a flexible arrangement.



This means it can be looked at again and changed at any time by you and/or Circles Network.

An advocate will not:

Judge you.

Give you advice.

Give you their opinion.

Make decisions or choices for you.

Be a befriender.

Be a counsellor.

Give legal advice—but they can help you find support.



What will happen at your first meeting?



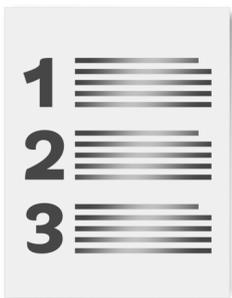
Circles Network will support you to talk about your views and thoughts about what has happened.



Circles Network won't ask you to go into detail about what's happened to you.



Your Circles Network advocate will listen to what you say and will tell you if they can support you.



You and your Circles Network advocate will agree a plan of how to support you.



YOU are at the centre of the plan.

What happens after the first meeting?



Your advocate can support you if there are more Adult Protection meetings, if that is what you want.



Your advocate does not have to be there if you don't want them to be.

What happens when the Adult Protection meetings are finished?



After your final meeting Circles Network will end the Advocacy Agreement, unless there is a follow-up meeting planned.



If there are any problems later, Circles Network can start the Advocacy Agreement again.

Circles Network might not be able to give you the same advocate that you had before.

Julia's story



"I told my advocate my problems and how I was being mistreated.

We talked a lot over the phone.

My advocate typed notes up for me and sent letters and gave me support.

But I went to the meetings on my own.

They don't have to do everything for you.

I took my notes with me to the meeting.

It's important to have someone on your side.

Without that, people will take advantage, and ignore you and what you have to say.

If you want to have your voice heard, get an advocate.

They're very powerful.

They make people listen."





Circles Network

New Volunteer House,
16 East Fergus Place,
Kirkcaldy, KY1 1XT

Phone: 01592 645360

Email: info.fife@circlesnetwork.org.uk

Circles Network provide advocacy to anyone experiencing adult protection issues. The organisations below provide Professional (issue based) advocacy to a specific client group.

Fife Forum



Fife Forum

Advocacy for people over 65 who are in community hospitals or residential or nursing care homes within Fife.

Office 1-2, Fraser Buildings, Millie Street,
Kirkcaldy KY1 2NL

Phone: 01592 643743

Email: info@fifeforum.org.uk



Fife Women's Aid

Advocacy for women who are experiencing, or have experienced, domestic abuse.

Suite 1, First Floor, Saltire House, Pentland Park,
Glenrothes, KY6 2AL

Phone: 0808 802 5555

Email: info@fifewomensaid.org.uk