

Authority to Act as an Advocate

An advocate is someone to stand with you, support your choices, and ensures your choices are carried out.

Why would I need an Advocate?

People need advocates for all sorts of reasons. Many participants can successfully advocate on their own behalf, however there are some people who may experience difficulty speaking up for themselves.

In these instances, an advocate may:

- Assist the participant to access services
- Assist the participant to change services
- Ensure that the service chosen is appropriate
- Communicate with the service provider
- Negotiate suitable resolutions where a complaint or dispute has arisen.

Who can be an advocate?

Advocacy is the process of standing alongside an individual who is disadvantaged, and speaking out on their behalf in a way that represents the best interests of that person. If a participant of our agency has asked you to be their advocate, this means they would like you to act on their behalf. You may be a family member or friend of the person, or a member of an advocacy service.

participants and prospective advocates should be aware that interpreters cannot be used as advocates, as they have a distinct role to play in interpreting communication between two or more parties.

The role of an advocate explained:

Advocacy may involve speaking, acting or writing on behalf of a participant who has limited ability to exercise his/her rights. Advocacy is a mechanism to facilitate participant rights, and you may be requested to support the participant in exercising his/her rights.

As an advocate, you undertake to ensure that:

- You always act in the best interests of the participant.
- The participant is aware of any issues and developments in relation to the support they receive and which you, as their advocate, may be involved.
- You are familiar with the participants Service Agreement and Schedule of supports
- You are familiar with P4 Movement's Human and Legal Rights charter
- You advise P4 Movement about any changes in participant's circumstances and any concerns about their changing needs
- Be prepared to relinquish the role of advocate should the participant wish this.

PARTICIPANT ADVOCATE NOMINATION FORM

Your information is strictly confidential. If you require assistance with this form, we can assist you with this and are also able to provide you with interpreting/translation assistance if required.

I wish to nominate an advocate/support person from the following:

- ☐ Advocate: An advocate is a person who, with explicit authority, represents another person's interests.
- ☐ Informal Advocate: A friend or family member who is nominated by a participant as their personal advocate. This is more like a support person.
- ☐ Systems Advocate: An organisation or professional advocate who can act for an individual or group of individuals in an institutional setting.
- ☐ Legal Advocate: A nominated advocate whose role has legal status, for example holding an Enduring Power of Attorney.

PARTICIPANT AUTHORISATION OF SUPPORT/ADVOCATE

I, _____ nominate _____
to act as my advocate/support person, effective from _____ (insert date).

His/Her Contact Details

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advocate/Support Person: _____ Date: _____