

ADVOCACY IS... ADVOCACY IS NOT...

ADVOCACY IS:

1. helping individuals help themselves.
2. building confidence so individuals are able to help themselves.
3. supporting efforts towards independence.
4. being honest.
5. providing necessary tools for appropriate decisions and appropriate action.
6. informing individuals of their rights.
7. helping individuals get their rights.
8. analyzing a problem and pinpointing areas of responsibility.
9. stating options available to resolve a problem.
10. providing technical assistance and training.
11. providing assistance in locating appropriate services.
12. referring to appropriate agencies/services.
13. lobbying for necessary legislation.
14. agitating to get legislation implemented.
15. organizing for change.
16. initiating new services.
17. investigating grievances.
18. following up on complaints and initiate grievances as necessary.
19. going to court when other avenues have failed to get results.
20. bringing individuals and groups together for mutual support and action.
21. advocating and/or interceding on behalf of individuals only when they are unable to help themselves.
22. a partnership with individuals, with mutual sharing of information, tasks, and action.
23. putting everything in writing (Advocacy 101).
24. monitoring service quality
25. no ownership of program services.
26. addressing the individual's stated issues.
27. looking for what works right.
28. "Nothing about me without me".
29. soliciting input from individual about program/service satisfaction.
30. expecting adherence to statutory and regulatory requirements.

31. asking the next question.

ADVOCACY IS NOT:

1. taking over an individual's life (or problems) and making all decisions for him/her.
2. squelching efforts of self-help.
3. reinforcing feelings of helplessness and dependence.
4. keeping individuals in the dark while doing everything for them.
5. keeping individuals uninformed about their rights, so they will have to rely on the advocate for everything.
6. discouraging individuals from becoming activists.
7. making excuses for unavailability or inadequacy of services.
8. making decisions for individuals.
9. controlling individuals.
10. persuading individuals to accept "make do" services.
11. closing the door to individuals because "there's nothing I can do to help".
12. keeping "hands off" politics.
13. accepting the status quo when legislation is not implemented.
14. seeking and accepting individual solutions and not taking the next step to address group problems.
15. accepting unavailability and inadequacy of services.
16. denying existence of problems reported.
17. dropping a complaint after initial contact.
18. filing a lawsuit as the first approach to a problem.
19. working only with individuals when others share a mutual problem.
20. interceding on behalf of individuals who can help themselves.
21. a parent/child relationship.
22. not taking actions necessary to resolve problems.
23. being dishonest with an individual.
24. allowing manipulation by the individual.
25. allowing manipulation of the individual by anyone providing services.
26. promoting compliance by the individual.
27. a game of "gotcha"