

THE ROLE OF AN ADVOCATE



You may feel you need an advocate to represent you and your child. That is your right to do so. Here are a few things to keep in mind regarding an advocate's role.

An advocate should:

CHILD FOCUSED

Support and advocate for what you and your child need and want.

EMPOWER

Support your voice not replace it. Provide you with the support to advocate for yourself and your child.

NOT PRACTICE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW

Not give legal advice or perform legal services without a license to practice law.

Tells you what your options are, but YOU make the decision.

ACCURATE

Provide truthful, verifiable information. Not personal beliefs or interpretations of federal and state laws, guidelines, and district or program policies and procedures.

RESPECTFUL

Always honor and respect team members and act with integrity.

PARTNERSHIP

Work with the team not against it. Work in partnership to resolve disputes.

You can access federal and state laws, guidelines, district/program policies, and procedures at no cost for any program or service your child receives, such as school supports or therapy.

You have the right at anytime to decide you no longer would like them to be your advocate.

KY-SPIN does not legally represent or individually advocate on behalf of individuals. KY-SPIN is here to empower you through training, tools, information, and one on one support.