



## Specialist Parental Advocacy Project



### A specialist parental advocacy project for parents with learning disabilities and additional needs

Highly skilled, experienced advocates can make a vital difference to vulnerable parents undergoing the traumatic experience of care proceedings. Introduced at the earliest stage of involvement with the Local Authority, advocates can also develop better working relationships between social workers and parents and ensure that reasonable adjustments are made.

We offer:

#### Advocacy support (£48p/h)

- to support parents at meetings, explain terminology, understand processes and make sure their voice is heard

#### Parenting support 1:1 (38p/h)

- personalised sessions to help parents with understanding and meeting their children's basic care needs

#### Parenting support and training group (free to our clients)

- ad hoc parenting support sessions and workshops

#### Easy read resource packs (£2 to download)

- to help explain care proceedings to parents
- to help explain basic care needs & child development
- to help explain the roles of different professionals

For more information or to make a referral, contact us:



Call - 07801 529 963



Email- [advocacy@elfrida.com](mailto:advocacy@elfrida.com)



34 Islington Park Street,  
Islington N1 1PX

**ATTENTION**

## What is advocacy?

Within a community setting, advocacy means getting support from another person to help someone express their views and wishes and to help them understand their rights. Within the Specialist Parental Advocacy project, the clients we work with have often experienced trauma and discrimination and have ongoing issues with being misunderstood. Therefore, it is imperative that an advocate gets to know their needs and communication style so they can adequately support them.

This is a project that supports parents **throughout the duration** of child protection or court proceedings. We need to be available to support parents to fully understand complex and emotionally triggering information and this may require clarification and explanation on a continuous basis according to the learning needs of the individual.

We CANNOT provide advocates:

- for individual or one-off meetings
- for blocks of approved time
- where funding is limited to the duration of meetings only
- when funding will be withdrawn suddenly
- when funding prevents a final client closure meeting

We aim to provide an exceptional service for parents that is also cost-effective for local authorities. And, whilst we fully appreciate that funding is limited, we are unable to accept cases that limit the amount of support that parents are able to access. We keep in regular contact with social workers to keep on track of hours and to avoid unexpected expenditures. We also ask managers to indicate on our finance form what additional tasks they would like advocates to undertake in advance - we never undertake any additional work without prior authorisation.

We guarantee:

- parents will be supported at every stage of the process
- we will promote positive relationships between parents and social work teams
- regular reviews with our Head of Services to discuss any issues or concerns



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