



"A very positive move, Helen has a closer relationship with peers. The continuity of care is great and we feel safe."

Rosalie S. Jarski

FAMILY ADVOCATES

Who are we?

As guardians of family members with lifelong disabilities, we identify with families facing the challenges of transitions. We will share helpful information with them, building solid, trusting relationships and advocating for their needs.

Our primary goal is to offer hope that a positive transition to community living is possible, despite misconceptions and misinformation that may have discouraged guardians in the past.



"My sister has her own room. She participates in activities and I am kept informed." Mary Ann Scukanc



Family Advocates

Supporting families and sharing choices that work!



"Tamekia is happy in the community!" Shirley A. Perez

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Living in the Community



Assist guardians in checking out available options. Provide guardians up to date information. Transition is an ongoing process. It can takes more than one attempt to make a successful transition!



Family Advocates

Supporting families and sharing choices that work!

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What do we do?



Family advocates meet one on one with guardians whose family members/wards live in SODC's and listen to their histories and their concerns about community living for their relatives.

Supporting families and sharing choices that work.

Share with guardians our personal success stories of transition from an SODC to the community and maintaining community life with available supports.

Share with guardians the stories of other guardians who have had relatives make successful transitions.

Give guardians information about the kinds of services that are available outside of SODC's.

Accompany guardians on a preliminary visit to see what an actual CILA is like, with the knowledge and consent of their ISC.

Refer guardians to social workers/ISC's that will help them find a new home for their relatives.

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What do we do?



Keep in contact with guardians and provide them with requested support visiting potential homes or at meetings with providers.

Continue to serve as a resource for guardians and a source of friendly support as they iron out issues, post placement.

Maintain a network of guardians and family members who are willing to talk to other guardians about their relatives' successful transitions.