

Remember!!

YOU decide who your Advocate will talk to and what information they will share.

Confidentiality & Advocacy

- Advocates **do not** have access to private information about you
- Advocates **will not** pass on information you give them to other people **without your consent**. However, if you tell your advocate something that concerns **your safety** or that of another person, they may have to speak to someone else. If this is the case, they will let you know
- Advocates **will only** speak to your carers, aftercare worker or professionals **with your consent**
- Advocates will always let you know what they discuss with other people

How do YOU get an Advocate?

If you would like a referral for advocacy support you can self-refer or ask somebody to make a referral on your behalf.

A referral can be made by:

Completing EPIC's under 18's or over 18's Online Advocacy Referral Forms at www.epiconline.ie/advocacy-forms/ or by phoning **01- 8727661**.

Follow us on Social Media!



Contact EPIC at

Phone 01 8727661

Email info@epiconline.ie

Website www.epiconline.ie

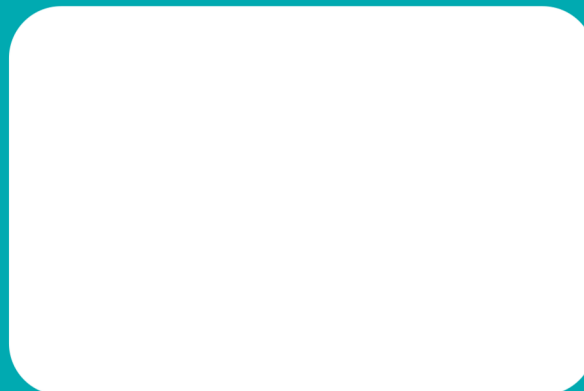
Head Office – Dublin

7 Red Cow Lane, Smithfield

Dublin 7, D07 KX52

Phone 01 8727661

Regional Offices – Mayo, Limerick and Cork



Advocacy Service

Advocacy service for young people in care, aftercare or with care experience

We are EPIC!

EPIC, Empowering People in Care, is an independent Children's Rights organisation which supports children and young people who are in care or who have care experience.

EPIC's Advocacy Service can help you to know your rights and have your voice heard while you are in care, aftercare or have left care.

Let's Talk About YOUR Rights

Children and young people in care have rights that are upheld by the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

EPIC helps you to understand your rights while you are in care and transitioning out of care. These include:

- The right to have your say on decisions that affect you
- The right to express your views and have them taken seriously
- The right to be treated equally and fairly
- The right to have your best interest consider by people making decisions about you
- The right to develop to your full potential
- The right to information
- The right to privacy

EPIC's Advocacy Service Supports Your Rights By:

- Listening to you
- Respecting your views
- Helping you to speak up so that you are heard
- Informing you of your rights
- Helping you to participate in the decisions that are being made about your life
- Finding out answers to any questions you may have
- Helping you understand the reasons why decisions are made
- Understanding the complaints system and assist you to make a complaint

Let's Talk about Care and Aftercare

Each year there are 6,000 children and young people in the care of Tusla – The Child and Family Agency.

Under Tusla's Leaving & Aftercare Policy, referrals are made to Aftercare for young people aged 16+. On average there are over 2,700 young people, aged 18-22 years, receiving Aftercare support from Tusla-Child and Family Agency.

EPIC supports young people in their transition from Care to Aftercare and provides advocacy support to young people up to 26 years of age.

What is Advocacy?

Advocacy is independent support for young people preparing to leave care, in aftercare and care leavers to assist them to have their views taken seriously in decisions affecting them.

How Can an Advocate Help? With Your Consent, your Advocate

Can discuss your aftercare and future plans with you

Can help you write a letter

Can speak to somebody on your behalf

Can attend a meeting with you, or on your behalf

Can support you to speak up about decisions in your life

Can help you understand what is being said

