

Our advocacy team is available to parents whose children are currently in care in Dublin North City, Waterford and Wexford.

The freephone helpline is nationwide:
1800 333 355

Our Team

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Parental Advocacy

Barnardos Parental Advocacy Service provides face to face advocacy to parents of children in care in **Dublin North City, Waterford and Wexford**. There is also a national helpline to support parents of children in care where they can get information and advice.



To contact the advocacy service

Freephone: 1800 333 355

Email: parent.advocacy@barnardos.ie

About Barnardos Advocacy Service

Barnardos Parents Advocacy Service for parents of children in care has advocates available in **Dublin North City, Waterford and Wexford**. The aim of the Advocacy Service is to help and support parents to actively participate in child protection and legal process in an informed and supported way by



Providing the information that parents need to understand: what is happening (in legal or child protection contexts) and what it means for them and their child.



Preparation for and support in attendance at meetings with Tusla – the Child and Family agency, legal professionals or court hearings.



Helping parents understand their rights and responsibilities.



Signposting or supporting parents to access therapeutic and other specialist services as required.



Empowering parents to actively participate and have their voice heard.



How can the advocacy service help?

- Helping parents to understand their rights and responsibilities.
- Help to prepare the parent for meetings with Tusla, legal meetings and court.
- Debrief after to ensure the parent has accurate information.
- Accompany the parent in child protection or legal meeting or court attendance.
- Help the parent to understand the child protection and legal process. What it means for them and their child.
- Help to improve the communication between parents and the child protection/legal system.



How the advocacy service works:

1. Parent or Professionals can contact the service with initial **enquiry**.
2. Send in a **referral form** or meet with an Advocate to help you fill in the referral form.
3. Meet the Advocate to talk about what you need **advocacy support** with. Make an **advocacy plan** together.
4. Advocate will start working with you and attend relevant meetings as **directed by the parent**.
5. **Review**, are there further advocacy tasks or meetings?