

Self-Advocacy
Means speaking
up or acting for
yourself.
It means standing
up for your rights
as a person.



If you want to learn more about

Missouri's Advocacy

Specialists

visit the DMH website by going to:

[http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/
advocacyspecialist.htm](http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/advocacyspecialist.htm)

If you have questions about advocacy you can contact your Support Coordinator or your Developmental Disability Regional Office and ask to speak with the Advocacy Specialist.

Albany

660-726-5246

800-560-8774

Central Missouri

573-441-6278

888-671-1041

Hannibal

573-248-2400

800-811-1128

Joplin

417-629-3020

888-549-6634

Kansas City

816-889-3400

800-454-2331

Kirksville

660-785-2500

800-621-6082

Poplar Bluff

573-840-9300

800-497-4214

Rolla

573-368-2200

800-828-7604

Sikeston

573-472-5300

800-497-4647

Springfield

417-895-7400

888-549-6635

St. Louis County

314-877-2711

800-374-6458

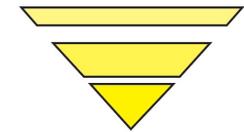
St. Louis Tri-County

314-244-8800

800-358-7665

Missouri

DIVISION OF
**DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**



Advocacy Specialist



Fostering Self-determination

Improving lives THROUGH
supports and services
THAT FOSTER self-determination.



Fostering Self-determination

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) believes that all of the people we provide services to can benefit from learning and using self-advocacy skills. In 2008, Advocacy Specialist positions were created in each region to help expand and enhance self-advocacy and self-determination throughout Missouri. The Advocacy Specialists are responsible for providing leadership, coordination, role modeling and mentoring of self-advocacy to individuals in their assigned region.



Principles of Self-Determination

Freedom: *Individuals will live a meaningful life in the community and make choices about their lives.*

Authority: *Individuals will have meaningful control over a set amount of dollars that can be used to build the supports they need by purchasing only what is needed and paying for what is received.*

Support: *Individuals will have support to organize resources in ways that are life enhancing and assist them in reaching their dreams and goals. Individuals have a circle of support made up of family, friends, and both paid and unpaid supports.*

Responsibility: *Individuals assume responsibility for giving back to their community, for seeking employment and for developing unique gifts and talents.*

Confirmation: *Individuals are recognized for who they are and what they can contribute, having a leadership role in developing policies that affect their lives and helping others reach success.*

What does the Advocacy Specialist do?

- Support existing self-advocacy groups and helping start new self-advocacy groups
- Provide self-advocacy and self-determination training to individuals, staff and families
- Create self-advocacy and self-determination materials that are written for and by people with disabilities
- Mentoring peers to participate on DDD and other statewide committees to influence change that will result in the enhanced empowerment of people with disabilities

