

# Capricorn Citizen Advocacy

## ADVOCATE INDEPENDENCE POLICY

<b>Policy number:</b>	<b>3.0.1</b>	<b>Approved by Management Committee:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Version:</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Signed off by Executive:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Responsible person:</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Scheduled Review Date:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2027

### Purpose

Capricorn Citizen Advocacy promotes the independent, unpaid, freely given nature of the citizen advocate role, and recognises the necessity for the advocate to remain free from direct influence by any other party, including the Citizen Advocacy office itself, and agencies and settings which provide services for protégés.

### Policy

1. In all of its contact with advocates, including recruitment, training and support, follow up, and any other assistance to advocates, office staff will rigorously emphasise the importance of advocate independence.
2. Citizen Advocacy office staff will clearly describe the difference between the support which will be provided by the Citizen Advocacy office, and the independent nature of the relationship between the advocate and the protégé.
3. The Citizen Advocate will be oriented to the need to remain independent of the influence of agencies and settings which provide services to their protégé, and the subtle ways in which others may seek to (intentionally or unintentionally) involve themselves in the advocate/protégé relationship.
4. Orientation to the role of citizen advocate as provided by the Citizen Advocacy office, will include an understanding that the needs of the protégé and the needs of those family members or others in a caring role, may not always be in harmony.
5. The advocate will be assisted to understand that where the protégé's needs and best interests differ to those of supportive others, that the advocate will need to maintain loyalty to the protégé, even though the needs of the other party/s may be valid and require consideration.

**Related Documents**

[3.0.2 Valued Status Policy](#)

**References**

Not applicable.


**Ratification**

This policy was adopted by Capricorn Citizen Advocacy's Management Committee at its meeting held on 27 / 03 / 2024.



**SIGNED:** .....  
**President**

**27 / 03 / 2024**  
**(Date)**



**SIGNED:** .....  
**Secretary**

**27 / 03 / 2024**  
**(Date)**