

Tips for Effective Advocacy

**Strategize +
Be Prompt:**

Legislators run on very tight schedules, even when remote. Meet with your group 10 minutes before start time to discuss roles. Be on time and be patient.

Tell Survivors' Stories:

Make it personal and district-specific. Narratives are powerful advocacy tools that often are more impactful than statistics.

**Keep It Short and
Focused:**

Stress what's important. Focus on what you're asking them to do.

Difficult Questions

Difficult questions happen. Unsure of the answer? Simply say "I don't know but can have someone follow up."

**Take Notes + Make a
Clear Ask**

Make sure at least one member of your group is taking notes. Include who is in the room, any questions that came up, and follow up needed. Don't forget to make the ask and note any commitment made.

Thank Everyone

Recognize everyone in the meeting and thank them for their time.

You're the Expert

Most importantly, remember YOU are the expert.

Phone-Based Advocacy Tips

Calling a legislator's office to provide information is well worth the time and preparation. Legislators keep detailed records regarding the calls they receive and the issues raised.

- Remember your message prep! You won't have much time to deliver information, so it can be helpful to write out some talking points ahead of time to make sure you know what you want to say.
- Use the prepared scripts as a launching pad to get you started. It's best, however, to use your own words. Rehearse what you intend to say a few times. The more you practice, the easier it will become to deliver your message.
- Because some legislative staff continue to work remotely, it is unclear who will be answering the phone when you call a particular office. When you get someone on the phone, tell them you are a constituent and you'd like to speak to someone about domestic violence issues. This information will help direct you to the most appropriate person. Alternatively, you can ask to speak with the chief of staff or the legislative director.



Contact NYSCADV If You Need Assistance!