

How to Call Your Legislator

Get the Name and Phone Number for Your Legislator

You can find the names and phone numbers of the all the elected officials who represent you by going to this website:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/sections/representatives/myrepresentative.aspx>.

Enter your street address and city in the boxes and click button that says “Find Your Elected Officials.”

The first two people listed will be your representative and senator in the Florida Legislature.

Plan and Practice Your Message

Phone calls should be kept to 5 minutes or less. Planning what you will say, and practicing how to say it, will help you keep your call short and your message clear.

- Telephone calls often are taken by an aide. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue on which you wish to comment.
- Introduce yourself and tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message for your legislator.
- Introduce your issue and provide an example of how the issue affects you or other people in the district.
- Explain what you want your legislator to do about the issue.
- Ask for either a return call or a written response to confirm their support.
- Thank them for taking your call.



SAMPLE PHONE CONVERSATION

Receptionist: “Good morning and thank you for calling Representative Hill’s office. How may I help you?”

Advocate: “Hello, I am Jane Doe. I live in Pensacola and I am calling to talk to Representative Hill about the needs of people in his/her district with developmental disabilities.”

Receptionist: "I'm sorry. Representative Hill is not in the office today. Would you like to leave a message?"

Advocate: "Yes. Please let the representative and his aides know that I am concerned about the lack of funding available to serve Floridians with developmental disabilities. There are more than 20,000 people with developmental disabilities on Florida's iBudget Waiver Waitlist, many of whom live in his district.

People with developmental disabilities deserve to receive the critical services they need for their health and well being. For example, my son, Michael, completed high school two years ago and has been on the iBudget Waiver Waitlist ever since. He wants to get a job and live independently away from home; but, without services, he has lost some of the abilities he once had. He needs help from a supported employment coach and a supported living coach to help him develop the skills he needs to be successful on his own.

Please tell Representative Hill that we need more money set aside to serve people on the iBudget Waiver Waitlist and that I would like to receive a return call or email from the representative on this issue."

Receptionist: "I will make sure the representative gets your message. Please give me your phone number and email address so that he can get back to you."

Advocate: "He can reach me at 999-123-4567 or JaneDoe@gmail.com. Thank you for taking my call."