

Top 5 Questions To Ask *an* Education Rights Advocate

When searching for an advocate to assist with Section 504 Plans and/or Individual Education Plans (IEPs), it can be challenging to know which person to choose. There are a few questions a parent of a child with food allergies should ask when interviewing an education rights advocate.

1. **Discuss details of the contract, rates, and any fees.** It is important to have an understanding of what is included in the hourly rates, any retainer fees, and any other details. Lack of a written contract may be cause for concern because it is good “insurance” for both parties.
2. **How long have you been in practice?** In general, this a good question to ask to gauge how much on-the-job experience an advocate may have.
3. **How long have you practiced in my child’s school district/county?** This can help determine the advocate’s knowledge of key players within the school district and/or county as well as the climate and environment within the schools.
4. **Have you worked with clients whose children had food allergies?** If so, how many? This can help you determine the advocate’s knowledge of how food allergies affect students’ education.
5. **Are you willing to learn more about food allergies and how they impact education?** This is a great opportunity to further inform the advocate. Parents may adjust their comfort level working with particular advocates by gauging how well they respond to this question.