

The Arc's Guide to Home Visits

What is a Home Visit?

A home visit is an opportunity for individuals with disabilities, their family members, and others to meet informally with the elected officials who represent them, network with other parents and individuals who are neighbors, to raise awareness about issues affecting their lives, and to talk about possible solutions.

Sometimes these visits are hosted by a family at their home. Other times, the family works with staff from The Arc Minnesota to hold the meeting at a library, community center, or familiar place in their neighborhood. Home visits are an important tool to help build relationships with elected officials, and to establish a supportive network with other persons with disabilities and their families who might want to share their stories, too.

Why are Home Visits Important?

One of the best ways to influence change in our communities is to share personal stories with elected officials, and this is especially important for members of the disability community.

Elected officials – including state senators, state representatives, and city council members, to name a few – make important decisions about funding for programs and supports, as well as changes to policies, that affect persons with disabilities.

By sharing a story about personal successes and challenges, people with disabilities and their families can help elected officials understand how their decisions about policy and funding affect our community.

It may seem scary and overwhelming to connect with your elected officials but it is so important because YOU are the expert on issues affecting your life, and your voice needs to be heard!

Conversations with elected officials are important to advocacy organizations like The Arc Minnesota, too, because we depend on their support when advocating for programs, services, and initiatives, as well as human and civil rights.

Interested in partnering with us to Host a Home Visit?

The Arc Minnesota can support you with hosting a home visit by:

- Inviting elected officials – as well as Arc members and supporters – from your area.
- Providing packets with information about current issues and legislative goals.
- Keeping the conversation going and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to speak.
- Assisting in providing refreshments and helping with set up and clean up.

We will be sure to work with you to find a date and time that is convenient for your schedule. Typical times for a home visit are Monday-Thursday, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, but other times can be considered; just let us know!

For more information,
contact Senior Advocate

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