



## Arc Guide to Home Visits

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Connecting with elected officials can be difficult. They have busy schedules and it may seem like they don't have time to hear your concerns or ideas for change. The Arc knows it is important for elected officials to sit down with the people they represent, so we provide this opportunity through **Home Visits**.

### What is a Home Visit?

- An **informal meeting** between elected officials and community members
- **Specific to your community** so only your representing officials are invited. Past participants have included Minnesota State Senators, Minnesota State Representatives, City Council Members, School Board Members, and others
- **Hosted in the home of an Arc member from your community** to minimize travel
- An opportunity for **community members** to tell their story to their representatives and explain why issues related to persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) matter
- A chance for **officials** to learn about the people they represent, and to discuss broader political issues that citizens may not know about
- An easy way to **engage in building a personal relationship** with officials, to make sure they understand your issues, hear your concerns, and see you as a valued citizen

### Home visits sound perfect! I want to host one in my district! How can I do that?

The Arc does the work for you! We will:

- Invite the elected officials and Arc members from your area
- Fully staff the event to help with set-up and clean-up
- Facilitate the conversation and ensure everyone has opportunity to speak
- Provide information packets regarding current legislative issues and goals
- Assist in providing refreshments

We work around your schedule!

- Typical times for a home visit are Monday-Thursday, 6:30pm-8:00pm
- Other times can be considered, just let us know!

Contact Gene Martinez

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### How can I prepare for a Home Visit?

Think about what services are working for your family, improvements you would like to see and what services are missing. Some topics to discuss might include: recent budget cuts to your local special education program, important services that your health insurance doesn't cover, difficulties with transportation and any other disability-related issues. Consider complimenting officials on things they're doing well!