



IMMIGRATION ISSUES: HOW TO CHOOSE WHICH DOCTOR YOU ASK TO WRITE A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF AN IMMIGRATION CASE?

****This tip sheet can help your child and family discuss which doctor or professional would be best to ask to write a letter in support of an immigration case.**

- ✓ Because your child with special healthcare needs has so many doctors and other professionals caring for her/him, it can be hard to choose just one to write a letter. If you think more than one person would write a letter, then ask more than one doctor or professional (nurse, teacher, therapist, etc.).
- ✓ It can be scary to ask for help with an immigration case. Most doctors or other professionals want to focus on the care of your child not your immigration status. They will likely want to help write this letter because in the end it will help with your child's care and health.
- ✓ Be honest about what is going on with the immigration case so the doctor or professional knows how serious things are and will help in the best and quickest way they can.
 - You don't have to tell them all the details of the case but you should tell them the possible outcomes, short timelines and effect on your child.

WHICH DOCTOR OR PROFESSIONAL CAN BEST TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH?

- ✓ If you have an immigration attorney, ask him/her to write out what types of things s/he wants or needs a doctor, healthcare professional, teacher, or therapist to write about.
 - Make copies of the list from the immigration attorney and give it to the doctor or professional you ask to write the letter as a guide.
- ✓ If the immigration attorney tells you specific things s/he wants in a letter, you can pick the doctor or professional who can best write about those things.
 - If you just need a letter with a diagnosis, maybe go to the doctor who made it or takes care of just that issue.
 - If you need a doctor who can write about ALL of the care your child needs and knows your child and family best, see below.

WITH WHICH DOCTOR OR PROFESSIONAL DO YOU HAVE THE BEST COMMUNICATION OR RELATIONSHIP?

- ✓ Is there a doctor or professional that you see most often?
- ✓ Is there a doctor or professional who has cared for child for the longest period of time?
- ✓ Is there a doctor or professional who you call or contact when you have a problem or question, even if the issue is not one that they take care of?
- ✓ Is there a doctor or professional with whom you feel most comfortable or trust?
- ✓ Is there a doctor or professional whose office staff often helps you?
- ✓ Is there a doctor or professional who knows about your "whole" child, meaning they know about medical issues, school, family issues, supplies, amount of care your child needs, and about your child as a person?