

Ways to Take the Wheel ~ at the start

- ‡ Ask/explain about the steps ahead and what to expect along the way.
- ‡ Ask/tell about including other agencies involved with your child and family and getting relevant information from them (such as an Individualized Education Program (IEP)).
- ‡ Ask for/offer referrals for services to meet your child's needs.
- ‡ Ask for/give explanations of all options and ask for the support your family would need to make things work for your child.
- ‡ Request/offer services that teach your child how to adapt successfully in their schools and communities.

Ways to Take the Wheel ~ as things move along

- ‡ Find out/tell about all opportunities to participate in planning and advocate for your child's and your family's services and supports.
- ‡ Talk/connect with professionals to learn the evidence about the kinds of treatments, services, and supports that can help achieve your goals.
- ‡ Seek/offer opportunities to develop new skills to build (or rebuild) and sustain good relationships with your child.
- ‡ Insist on making/provide discharge, and aftercare plans for reintegration into the community at the outset of out-of-home care.
- ‡ Ask/offer for help to find the right services and providers and funding to pay for them.

Ways to Take the Wheel ~ sustaining gains

- ‡ Request/provide services that support your child's gains and will help insure they continue to adapt successfully in their schools and communities.
- ‡ Ask/offer for supports that can help your family cope with the stress at home - including support for siblings.
- ‡ Seek/offer services that promote wellness and resilience.
- ‡ Insist on/provide services that build on your child's and family's strengths and counterbalance risk factors.

Ways to Take the Wheel ~ at a Judicial Proceeding

- ‡ Find/provide a family advocate attached to the court or other knowledgeable and trustworthy person who can help you learn what you need to know and prepare for court.
- ‡ Ask/provide for a description of the courtroom and the court proceedings before hand - including any security measures you are likely to encounter.
- ‡ Get/offer help to prepare any statements you wish to make during the proceeding.

- † Request/provide transportation, child care, and qualified, professional translators (if necessary) so you can fully participate in the hearing.