

■ **How do I know if my case is worth pursuing?**

After your consultation, your advocate may determine your case does not have merit under the law. Your advocate will explain the reason(s) your case does not have merit prior to your hearing date and will also provide you a written explanation. If your advocate determines your case does not have merit, he/she cannot represent you. However, you may continue on to the hearing without advocacy assistance.

■ **What can I do if I have a complaint about my advocate?**

You may call Advocacy Program staff and provide information regarding your complaint or submit your complaint in writing to the program manager.

■ **How do I request Advocacy Assistance?**

Contact the Advocacy Program by telephone at (800) 638-3994 or (313) 456-2314 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.


Program Statement

The Advocacy Program is a customer friendly program. It prepares claimants and employers to better understand the appeals or decision-making processes. Services are provided to assist in presenting facts properly, to simplify the process and to help reduce the fear and intimidation felt at the appeals hearing level.

**Contact the
Advocacy Program**

call (800) 638-3994
or (313) 456-2314
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

**State of Michigan
Department of Labor and
Economic Opportunity
Unemployment Insurance Agency**

www.michigan.gov/uia

UIA is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

UIA 1998
(Rev. 4-2022)

Advocacy Program
.....
**Frequently Asked Questions
& Helpful Answers**


For Unemployed Workers & Employers
Cadillac Place • 3024 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 12-100 • Detroit, MI 48202

Advocacy Program



■ What is the Advocacy Program?

The Advocacy Program offers information, consultation and representation services to claimants and employers for most appeal hearings at the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearing and Rules (MOAHR). Advocates are independent contractors who have signed a contract with the Program.

■ What type of service can the Program provide for me?

The Advocacy Program provides consultation and representation services to you. Program staff will provide information about the appeal process, fact sheets about most common issues, and a listing of advocates. The advocates will provide the consultation and representation services. In some cases, service is limited to consultation only.

■ What are the qualifications of an Advocate?

An advocate must be a member of the Michigan State Bar Association and pass a written examination administered by the Advocacy staff. After attending an orientation, the advocate signs a contract with the Advocacy Program as an independent contractor. An advocate cannot be a current state employee.

■ How much will this service cost me?

The Advocacy Program services are available at no cost to you unless the administrative law judge finds that you have committed fraud. In this case, you must pay the cost of advocacy services. Advocates must not solicit or accept any payment from you for providing services covered under the Advocacy Program.

■ What cases are not covered by the program?

Cases involving labor disputes, Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA), Interstate Filed Claims, SUTA (State Unemployment Tax Act) Dumping, and Monetary Determinations including Redetermination of Charges.

Cases involving an admitted disqualifying act, benefit and liability cases without merit, as determined by the advocate, school denial period, reasonable assurance, interest and penalty calculation, wilful neglect and multi-claimant cases are limited to consultation only. During your consultation, the advocate will discuss the facts and the theory of the case to prepare you for the hearing.

■ How soon should I contact the Advocacy Program?

Contact the Advocacy Program **after** you have received a Notice of Hearing. Assistance may be provided no later than two business days prior to the scheduled hearing date. Failure to timely secure an advocate is not sufficient reason to be granted an adjournment request for your hearing.

■ Who determines if I am eligible for Advocacy services?

Advocacy Program staff will verify that your hearing is scheduled and will determine what services you may be eligible to receive under program guidelines.

■ How Do I Select My Advocate?

You will receive a packet of information that contains a list of advocates in your area. Review the list, which includes a short biography about the advocate's background and/or experience. You may then select your advocate. Be sure to verify if the advocate is available for your scheduled hearing date and is willing to appear for your in-person hearing or for a telephone hearing.