Do For One NYC, General Qualities Needed for Advocate Selection:
(adapted from Citizen Advocacy literature)

1. Commitment to the advocacy concept, and the belief that it’s important for people with disabilities to have strong personal relationships.

2. Willingness to be oriented and prepared, however, this is not extensive, nor should the advocates feel that they are working for or being controlled by the Advocacy office.

3. Competence in the role they are playing with a particular protege.

4. Good Character – an advocate will generally have a lot of power over the vulnerable person and therefore must be careful not to exploit or take advantage of the person in any way. It is also important for the advocate to keep promises he/she makes.

5. Mental Stability – someone with stability, good common sense, good judgment and interpersonal skills are extremely important.


7. A willingness to belong to a community action group that encourages this kind of work. (e.g. a church group/social group). This is encouraged, but not a requirement.

8. So long as the people involved have a good reputation and have good intuitive people skills, there is no reason people have to have a vast knowledge base.

9. Ironically, busy people are good to seek out than people who are not so active as inactive people have a tendency to be unresponsive, etc.

10. It may be good to consider a way of educating each individual, or connecting them with people who are educated, about the services of the particular individual as well as some legal tools and issues to keep an eye out for he/she is working with.

11. Keeps their promises and apologizes when mistakes are made.