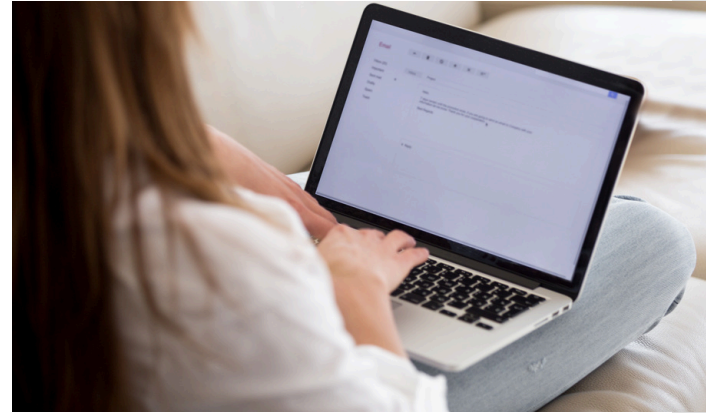


# HOW SENDIAS SERVICES CAN SUPPORT YOU AT TRIBUNAL

SENDIAS services are here to support you when “things go wrong,” including:

- Mediation.
- Appeals to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).
- Exclusions.
- Complaints related to SEN and disability.



## WHAT SUPPORT CAN SENDIASS OFFER?

SENDIASS can provide different levels of support, depending on your needs and the service's capacity. This includes:

- **Pre-hearing support:** Advice and guidance to help you prepare your case, such as explaining the process and helping you organise your evidence.
- **Support during the hearing, in rare cases:** Attending the Tribunal with you to offer reassurance, remind you of key points, and help you stay on track.
- **Representation in rare cases:** If you are unable to present your case due to communication challenges, health issues, or other significant barriers, SENDIAS may present your agreed case on your behalf.



## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRIBUNAL SUPPORT

**SENDIAS staff are not lawyers:** They provide support and advice, but they do not act as legal representatives.

**Avoiding a Tribunal:** Wherever possible, SENDIAS will help you work with the Local Authority to resolve disagreements before a hearing.

**Fair use of resources:** Each SENDIAS service has limited resources and must balance the needs of many families. The level of support offered will depend on your situation and the service's capacity.

## IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

For some families, information and advice before the hearing may be enough. Others may need help pulling together their case or signposting to organisations that can provide additional support.

If you have concerns about presenting your case or need help preparing, **contact SENDIASS as soon as possible.**

## YOUNG PEOPLE LODGING AN APPEAL

If you're a young person appealing without parental support, SENDIASS can offer tailored help to ensure your voice is heard and your case is presented clearly. This might include attending the hearing with you or presenting your agreed case if needed.

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- All families and young people have the right to receive support from SENDIASS during a Tribunal.
- The type and level of support depend on your specific needs and the resources available.
- If you need help preparing for a Tribunal, contact your local SENDIASS service early in the process.

