



McKenzie Friend Presentation Template



Use the following to **prepare and present an argument to the judge for the acceptance of your McKenzie Friend.**

You can **customize** this statement to your situation, then **print it**, and **read it in court.**

Your Honour, I would like to request a support person, also known as a McKenzie Friend, to help me today.

[If needed]

The legal case that established the principle of the McKenzie Friend is:

McKenzie v McKenzie (1970) 3 W.L.R. 472. *[Which you would read out in court as "year 1970, volume 3, Weekly Law Reports, page 472"]*

I understand that support people, known as McKenzie Friends, are usually friends, family members or sometimes community justice workers who can sit beside self-represented litigants in a courtroom.

I know they aren't allowed to address the court, and they are not here to give me legal advice.

[Name]

My McKenzie Friend is...

[Relationship to you, and occupation if relevant]

They are...

They will help me with

[Explain their role. Be as specific as possible to show that you have thought about this. Examples: "organizing my notes because I get flustered, and they know my case and can hand them to me when I need them"; or "feeling calmer and staying focused because appearing in court as a self-represented person is quite intimidating and nerve-racking"; or "as a community justice worker they are experienced in coming to court with people in my situation."]

It is important for [name] to sit beside me instead of in the public seating because...

[Examples: "I feel better having my friend sit beside me up front"; or, "they'll be able to hear what's being said and take some notes for me"; or, "they'll be able to pass me my documents when I need to refer to them."]



Additional notes