

The McKenzie Friend

A McKenzie Friend is not technically a representative but simply a non-legally qualified person who sits with a party during a hearing to offer advice and assistance. The McKenzie Friend is not allowed to address the court. The term comes from a divorce case, *McKenzie v McKenzie*, where the husband was representing himself and wished to have the assistance of a non-legally qualified person at court.

There is a widely recognised presumption that a party is entitled to have the assistance of a non-legally trained person whilst they are at court. If a party does wish to rely on a McKenzie Friend they should notify the judge from the outset of the hearing. A judge will not usually refuse permission unless he believes that allowing the McKenzie Friend would interfere with the administration of justice.

CIRCUIT COURT

FAMILY LAW

In the matter of the Guardianship of Infants Act 1964

And in the matter of section 40(5), Civil Liability and Courts Act 2004

Between -

the Applicant

and

the Respondent

**Request for Court's permission to be accompanied by a person at the hearing of
Proceedings**

1. Name of party applying to be accompanied at Hearing
- Applicant
2. Name and address of person who it is proposed will accompany the
*Applicant/Respondent
3. Relationship or connection of person referred to in paragraph 2 to
*Applicant (eg. Parent, brother/sister/family friend etc)
Support Worker, Amen
4. I have not previously obtained the permission of the Court to be accompanied
In these proceedings

Dated: 2007

Signed: _____

Applicant