

# Advocate Role

A one-page Summary



**What type of church can get involved?** Any church in the UK! We may have been set up by Anglicans and housed in Bishopthorpe Palace but we are fully ecumenical. We recognise many churches set up charities to carry out their social action – that is why we work through Christian charities as well as churches.

**Who is the Advocate?** The Advocate is the name we give to the person who represents Acts 435 in your church/charity and posts the requests onto the website. They may also meet with the people in need, or they may get referrals from other people within the church who are meeting with people and aware of their needs, eg. the pastoral team, outreach workers, etc. The advocate can be on church staff or a volunteer from the congregation.

**We are flexible – the answer is usually YES to questions about different ways of incorporating Acts 435 into what you do.**

**Will it take up a lot of my time?** NO! Acts 435 is designed to be quick and easy – a resource to help you meet people’s needs, not an administrative burden. If you are organised, you can fit Acts 435 requests neatly into your other church activities. Each request only requires a one-page form, to be signed by the applicant. How much you promote Acts 435 in your community is up to you.

**What can we ask for?** Whilst the focus is on basic necessities (whether to purchase an item or to contribute to arrears, buy a train ticket, etc.) in some senses anything goes (see our website for the variety of requests). Acts 435 is donor-led and if donors do not think it is an appropriate request, they simply will not donate to it! Current cap is £120 and a family can apply up to three times a year. Applicant details are kept confidential – just town, date of birth and a description of the need are displayed on the website.

**Who can we ask for?** You can ask for help for anyone in poverty and struggling financially. They can be known personally to your church/charity or referred to you by supporting organisations such as Children’s Centres and Citizen’s Advice Bureaux.

**What happens if the request is not fulfilled?** Requests are usually posted for 2 weeks and are extended up to a month if the money has not come in. Acts 435 often has general funds which enables it to match fund requests which have received some external donations. Over 95% of our requests are met in full.

**How do we get the money?** Money raised on the website is sent via online bank transfer to the church/charity bank account. From there the advocate arranges purchasing the item or giving the money, depending on what is appropriate in the circumstances.

**What do I have to do to become an Advocate?** Email [admin@acts435.org.uk](mailto:admin@acts435.org.uk) with your name, email and the church/charity you represent. You will receive a simple training manual on how to post requests as well as guidelines with some practical details on how it all works. You will need to sign a simple one page ‘advocate commitment’.

**Don’t delay – some churches and charities have received over £10,000 a year through Acts 435 for those in need in their local community.**