

ALLYSHIP

for parents

How can you be an ally?

As a parent, you have an opportunity to become your child's greatest advocate. Practice allyship and advocating for your child:

- **Know and stand up for your child's rights** and your parental rights
- **Facilitate continuing, open, non-judgmental dialogue** with your child; make it clear to them that you are a safe person for them to speak with and be themselves around
- **Provide space for your child to explore and express their identity**, whether that be with clothes, hair, makeup, toys, sports, or in other ways; be there to connect with them, teach them new skills, and provide them with guidance for safety
- **Take your child's concerns of bullying and discrimination seriously** and follow-up on these issues
- **Advocate for your child** even when they are not around
- **Testify against anti-trans and anti-LGBTQIA2S+ policies** and bills
- **Speak up about LGBTQIA2S+ rights and issues** amongst your friends, family, and community groups
- **Stand up against anti-trans and any anti-LGBTQIA2S+ hate**, and in the midst of such hate, help your child to know they are loved and valued.
- **Respect your child as a full, intelligent, capable person**; you may have known them their whole life, but they have lived that life: trust that they know themselves
- **Do not share your child's identity, pronouns, or chosen name without their permission.** "Outing" them will break trust and may put your child in harm's way
- **When your child has given permission to share, work to consistently use their correct name and pronouns**, and inform and correct others as needed
- **Take time to rest, and make time for your child to rest, recover, and be a child**; provide opportunities for joy, community, and expression as often as you can
- **Continue to educate yourself and examine your personal biases.** Read, watch and listen to media created by queer and trans artists, activists, and authors.

Case-building and legal support options

If you believe your child's rights are being violated, document everything you can. Your school or district administration may have avenues for grievances and repairs, but if you are in need of further legal assistance, you can submit an ACLU of Alaska intake form at <https://www.acluak.org/en/get-help>.



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