

ADVOCACY

Children's Advocacy Days 2016

E-MAIL TO LEGISLATORS

E-mail is a fast, usually efficient way to contact your legislator. However, individual legislators receive e-mail differently. Some prefer e-mail above all other forms of communication; some do not read e-mail for days or not at all. It is a good idea to call your legislator's office first and simply ask, "Does Senator Jones check e-mail? Would that be a good way to send information to him?"

By using the guidelines for effective letter writing, your e-mail will gain the attention of your legislator and his/her key staff. It is particularly important to use the letter writing guidelines because the number of e-mails sent to legislators is increasing and, unfortunately, some e-mail senders use a "too informal" style that does not get across the message the sender desires.

Also, be sure to put your home address and telephone number in the body of your e-mail. Most legislators wish to know who sent the e-mail. Your e-mail address is not sufficient.

Some legislators still maintain that there is no substitute for a well-written letter; however, most now see e-mail as an acceptable means of communication.

E-mail may be the best means to reach your Congressman or Senator in Washington due to increased security measures on Capitol Hill. Regular mail is very slow, often taking weeks to reach the offices. Consider faxing or e-mailing. However, regular mail should be fine for Congressional home offices.

Remember e-mail is never anonymous. It can be tracked.