

Patrick's story

Disability

Patrick came to us looking for advice on accessing treatment for his son Jack, who has dyspraxia and Autism. Jack was in danger of developing a significant movement difficulty so Patrick went to a local service that could provide the type of dyspraxia treatment Jack needed. However, he was refused on the basis that Jack also had a diagnosis of Autism.

Issue We know that parents of children with disabilities often have severe difficulty in accessing services and support that their child needs. What was unusual about this case was the fact that Jack was excluded from services for a person with disabilities based on the nature of his disability. This case highlights the situation where parents face difficulties in accessing services for children with a second diagnosis alongside Autism.

How we helped At the clinic, the solicitor examined the correspondence that had taken place between the parties and other documents relating to the service. The solicitor advised Patrick that in cases like these, he could take a case to the Workplace Relations Commission or raise a complaint with the Ombudsman for Children's Office because this could be considered discrimination under equality legislation.

