

Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)

Easy Read Leaflet



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We provide a **free** advocacy service across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.



The Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy Service (IMCA), supports and protects vulnerable people who are unable to make some of their own decisions.

It is part of the law to provide this service for people over the age of 16.

The aim of this service is to make sure people's wishes, views and feelings are heard and taken into account in making important decisions that affect them.

Who can use an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)?

This service is for:

- People who are not able to make or communicate their own decisions
- People who have no friends or family to support them
- People over the age of 16 years' old

This will include people with dementia, mental health problems, learning difficulties, physical disabilities or people in a coma.

When do we need an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)?

An Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) can support someone who is unable to make decisions about:



- Changes in where they live – if the NHS or council want to move a person to hospital or into care for more than 8 weeks
- Serious medical treatment – if NHS want to stop treatment
- Safeguarding – to keep you safe
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) – protecting you from having your freedom

Who can use this service?

Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA) provide support for people who have been assessed as not being able to make decisions about the areas in the paragraph above.



This is usually where people do not have family or friends to represent them.

People who will use this service may have:

- Dementia, brain injury or stroke
- Mental ill health
- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Unconscious or in a coma



What does an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate do?

- Support you through the decision making process
- Meet with you and get to know your wishes, feelings and values
- Talk to other important people in your life
- Look at all the information including social and medical records
- Look at all the decision options that are available
- Ensure the Mental Capacity Act is being followed
- Write a report after looking at all the information
- Help you to challenge any decisions – informally



Referrals – how to use this service



If you want to use this service a referral will need to be made by a professional decision maker – this could be someone like your GP.

Completed referral forms should be emailed to:

imca@onside-advocacy.org.uk

Easy read version by
SpeakEasy N.O.W.
using 



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www.onside-advocacy.org.uk



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