

What is an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)?



IMCA Advocates support people who have been deemed to lack mental capacity by a doctor or social worker.



Lacking mental capacity means people think someone is unable to make important decisions about their life.



An IMCA advocate might support someone who doesn't have family or a friend able to support them.



It is a person's legal right to be supported by an advocate if they are deemed to lack capacity and have no one else they can rely on.

What can an advocate do?



An advocate will aim to understand the client's views and beliefs and will use this to write a report about them.



The report can then be used by doctors and decision-makers to reach a decision about care and treatment that they think is in the best interests of the person.



Sometimes an advocate will look at different options, these might be different to the ones the professionals have suggested.



The advocate will ensure the person is included in any decisions about them, and fight for their voice to be heard. IMCAs can challenge decisions made by doctors and social workers.

When can someone have an IMCA?



A person must be deemed to lack mental capacity. AND...



There is going to be a decision about serious medical treatment. This is when an NHS body gives, takes away or withholds treatment. OR



A decision is being made about moving where the person is living. This is when an NHS body or local council decides to move a person to a hospital or other accommodation.

An IMCA can also support when:



**Essex Safeguarding
Adults Board**

A person is going through a Safeguarding procedure.



When a person is going through a safeguarding procedure they can have an advocate and family to support them.



An IMCA can also support when someone is going through a care review – this means changes may be being made to their care plan.