

Referrals

Referrals for an IMCA must be made by or on behalf of a professional decision-maker.

All referrals are processed by our referrals team.

Making a referral:

Guidelines are on our website www.advocacyforall.org.uk

Download the Referral Form, complete and email to referrals@advocacyforall.org.uk or post it to the address below.

If you need help with completing the referral form or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our team on the number below.



When not to make a referral:

- when serious medical intervention is needed immediately
- when treatment is regulated by Part 4 of the Mental Health Act
- where accommodation is needed urgently
- where restrictions are placed on a person's accommodation under the Mental Health Act



This service is provided by **Advocacy for All**



IMCA - Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy Service

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 introduced a statutory advocacy service for people who are 16 and over and lack capacity to make important decisions and have no family or friends to support them.

These advocates are known as IMCA's - Independent Mental Capacity Advocates.

Their role is to support the person during the decision making process and to consider alternative options.

Contact us

☎ 0345 310 1812 option 1

✉ referrals@advocacyforall.org.uk

🌐 www.advocacyforall.org.uk

📍 Advocacy for All, The Civic Centre, St Mary's Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7BU



When is an IMCA needed?

- when an NHS body is providing, withdrawing or stopping serious medical treatment
- when an NHS body or Local Authority is proposing a stay in a care home of more than 8 weeks
- when a person stays in hospital longer than 28 days
- referrals may also include safeguarding adult cases or a change or review of a person's accommodation



What does an IMCA do?

- supports and represents the person in the decision making process
- finds out what the person's past and present wishes, feelings, values are
- evaluates information, including accessing and copying relevant social and medical records
- evaluates alternative courses of action
- consults with others involved in the person's life
- seeks a further medical opinion if necessary
- checks the Mental Capacity Act principles and best interest check list are being followed
- prepares a report, which the decision maker has a legal duty to consider
- challenges the decision (including capacity) if necessary (informally first and through Court of protection as a last resort)

Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA's) help people who are assessed to lack capacity about medical treatment or where they live and have no family or friends who are willing to represent their views, this can include, but is not limited to:

- people with dementia or mental ill health
- people with learning disabilities
- people with physical disabilities
- people who have had a stroke
- people with acquired brain injuries
- people who are unconscious or in a coma

An IMCA is.....

- independent of the person making the decision
- able to meet the person in private
- able to see all relevant health, social services and care home records
- able to request an additional medical opinion
- someone who has completed the national IMCA training