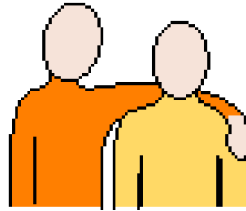


Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy



**Statutory advocacy for
those who lack capacity
to make decisions about
their care**

Information for health and social
care staff

What is IMCA?

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 states that anyone

- who lacks capacity and
- has no family or friends able to speak for them and who is the subject of a decision regarding
- Serious medical treatment or
- A move to accommodation arranged by the local authority or the NHS (other than short-term)

must have an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA).

Those who have family or friends but are subject to Protection of Vulnerable Adult Procedures *may* still be eligible for IMCA. IMCAs *may* also be available for care reviews in certain circumstances.

Referring to IMCA

Referrals will usually be made by doctors or social workers (though they may delegate this task). Referral details are on the back page of this leaflet.

If you need to refer in the evening or at weekends, please download a referral form from www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk/imca and fax back to us on the number given. This will speed up our reply.

We will see the person, gather additional information, and complete an IMCA report as soon as possible.

Working with IMCA

IMCA advocates will need to work quickly, so as not to hold up the provision of treatment or care. We recognise that health and social care staff are extremely busy, but would ask that you respond to requests for information as soon as possible. Under the Code to the Mental Capacity Act, IMCA advocates can

- Ask to see the person in private
- Ask to see, and to take copies from, individuals' health and care records so long as the record-holder deems these relevant
- Request a further medical opinion

The advocate will write a report from an independent viewpoint that presents the individual's wishes (where known), evaluates the information gathered, and offers comments on the decision to be made. **However, the final decisions rests with the doctor or local authority;** though IMCA advocates can appeal if they think their report has not been given due weight.

Dorset Advocacy has been commissioned to run the IMCA service by the local authorities in Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole. For further information about the scheme, including a full guidance pack, please visit www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk/imca. Should you have a complaint about the service, please contact the Manager Mike Pochin at the address overleaf.

How to refer

To refer someone to IMCA, please call:

0845 389 1762

Please be ready to give full details of the person concerned, and to say who has decided they lack capacity for the decision. Outside office hours, please leave a message, or fax a referral form to **01305 266853**. Forms are available at www.dorsetadvocacy.co.uk/imca

IMCA, Dorset Advocacy, 3 Princes St,
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1TP
Landline 01305 251033
Email: imca@dorsetadvocacy.co.uk

Dorset Advocacy is an independent voluntary organisation with over 12 years experience of advocacy with people who have learning difficulties. We work across Dorset (including Poole and Bournemouth) and provide advocacy in many settings in accordance with individuals' wishes and needs.