



Your 'Good-to-Know' guide on Independent Relevant Person's Representative

What is independent advocacy?

Advocacy is about speaking up. It is about having the right information, at the right time to help you speak up for yourself. Sometimes people need help from advocates to speak up.

Independent Advocacy is when people get support from people who are independent from all health and social care services. These people are called Independent Advocates.

Independent Advocates can help you to:

- Understand information and your rights
- Explore your options and choices
- Tell people what is important to you
- Access other services that may be able to help you.

What is a Independent Person's Representative?

There is legislation to protect people who may be retained or restricted in a way that deprives them of their liberty. This is called 'deprivation of liberty safeguards' (DoLS).

An Independent Person's Representative is a vital role under the deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLS) framework.

The Independent Person's Representative ensures the rights of individuals who may lack capacity to make their own decisions about their care and accommodation are upheld and their best interests are safeguarded.

An Independent Person's Representative is free, confidential and independent from health and care services.

Eligibility checker

Who is it for?

- Individuals under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS)
- DoLS ensures that any restrictions on your freedom are done safely, only when needed, and are regularly reviewed
- Your independent Relevant Person's Representative can be a family member or friend.
- If there's no-one available to be your Relevant Person's Representative, the local authority will appoint a paid Independent Person's Representative from an advocacy service such as People First.

How can a Relevant Person's Representative help me?

A paid Relevant Person's Representative is there to advocate for you and make sure you are happy with your care. This includes:

- Stay in regular contact with you through visits or calls
- Check care plans and notes to ensure you are getting the best care
- Raise issues with staff if you are unhappy with your care
- Help you request reviews of your care and support you are receiving
- Assist you with complaints about your care. If you share that you are not happy where you are living and would like to move, your Relevant Person's Representative helps you to make an objection.

What happens when you object?

If you want to move, your Relevant Paid Representative helps you get a solicitor. Your solicitor will:

- Speak with people involved in your care, such as social workers, staff, family and more.
- Apply to the Court of Protection to review your situation.

The Judge will look at all the evidence and decide if you should:

- Stay where you are
- Move to a different accommodation
- Have your care plan changed to improve things.

Getting support from a Independent Advocate

People are usually referred for Care Act Advocacy by their local council. This is because it is a statutory service.

If you feel you are eligible, please contact your social worker or local Adult Social Care office and ask to be referred for Care Act Advocacy.

If you have tried to contact your social worker or local office and have had difficulty, please contact us directly and we can help you.

- Call us on: **03003 038 037**
- Email: **bestlife@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk**
- Live chat: **wearepeoplefirst.co.uk**

Or **scan the QR code** to fill in the referral form.



Any questions?

If you have questions about Independent Relevant Person's Representative, take a look at the **Frequently Asked Questions** on our website, or get in touch.



You can call us **0300 303 8037**



Or email **bestlife@wearepeoplefirst.co.uk**



Or live chat **wearepeoplefirst.co.uk**

If you need this information in a different format please let us know



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