

Health and Social Care Professionals

As a health and social care professional, it is important to be aware of the role and importance of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA). Here are some key points to remember:

What is an IMCA?

An IMCA is a trained and qualified professional who provides support to individuals who lack capacity and who are unfriended, to make important decisions about their lives. Individuals may lack capacity due to a learning disability, dementia, mental illness or brain injury.

When is an IMCA needed?

An IMCA **must** be instructed for certain decisions, such as:

- Serious medical treatment decisions
- Changes in accommodation (e.g. moving to a care home)

You **may** instruct an IMCA for:

- Care review meetings
- Safeguarding investigations
- Adult protections proceedings

For more info, visit our
website:

www.mhmwales.org.uk

Or use our QR code:



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What does an IMCA do?

- Helps the person understand the decision that needs to be made
- Represents the person's views and wishes
- Provides information and options that the person can consider
- Helps the person communicate their view and wishes to others
- Raises any concerns or issues on the person's behalf

How can I refer someone for an IMCA?

If you are a health or social care professional and you believe a person lacks capacity to make an important decision and has no one else to support them, you must refer the person for an IMCA. This can be done by contacting the local IMCA service.

MHMWales is your local provider, please contact us:

Tel : 01656 649557 Email: imca@mhmwales.org

Remember, an IMCA can help ensure that the decisions made for someone who lacks capacity are in their best interests, and help them to have a say in their own life.