INDEPENDENT MENTAL CAPACITY ADVOCACY (IMCA)
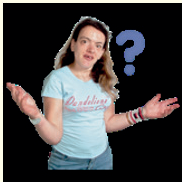
The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA)

The MCA is a law to empower and keep people safe who may be unable to make some decisions for themselves.

What does 'lacks capacity' mean?

A person who lacks capacity is unable to make a particular decision for themselves because they cant:

- Understand the information about the decision
- Retain that information
- Use that information to make the decision
- Communicate their decision

What is Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA)?

The aim of the IMCA service is to provide support for people who lack capacity and have no-one else (other than paid staff) to support them to make important decisions about either:

Serious medical treatment- treatment which involves providing, withdrawing or withholding medical treatment

Long term accommodation move (a stay in a care home of more than 8 weeks or a stay in hospital for more than 28 days)

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Care Review - where a change in accommodation has recently happened and this is being reviewed to see if it is working for the person.

Safeguarding Adults – safeguarding is where somebody is protected from harm

The Mental Capacity Act (2005) places a legal duty (a legal duty is where somebody has to do something by law) on Health and Social Care professionals to refer to an IMCA service.

How can I make a referral? (a referral is when somebody tells us that you might need some extra support)

It is the decision maker (health or social care professional who is making the decision) that has a legal duty to decide if the person meets this criteria and to make the referral.

The Wirral Advocacy Hub offers a SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT for all advocacy enquiries in the area.

For more information or to make a referral:
Tel: 0300 200 0083
E-mail: wirraldutyadvocate@n-compass.org.uk
Website: www.wirraladvocacyhub.org.uk
Online chat: https://www.n-compass.org.uk/services/advocacy-service