



Independent Mental Capacity Advocates for people in the county
of Hampshire

We have had 52 IMCA referrals in the 1st year of the Mental Capacity Act

- ⇒ 11 serious medical treatment decisions
- ⇒ 39 long term accommodation decisions
- ⇒ 2 adult protection cases

We have worked with

- ◆ 32 older people
- ◆ 13 people with learning disabilities
- ◆ 4 people with physical disabilities
- ◆ 3 people with mental health issues

Top 3 reasons why 130 referrals were not eligible for an IMCA:

1. The client had friends or family that were appropriate to consult with
2. The decision was not about serious medical treatment or long term move
3. The client had capacity to make the decision

All local authorities and health bodies have a legal duty to consult an IMCA where:

- ⇒ a decision is being made for someone aged 16 or over about either
 - 1) serious medical treatment or
 - 2) long term moves
- ⇒ **and** the person does not have capacity to make that decision
- ⇒ **and** there are no family or friends appropriate to consult with

Want to make a referral?

Give us a call to talk it through first or simply download a referral form from our website



Get in touch.....

Phone/fax: 01256 478999



Address: 17 New Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7PR

Email: imca@hampshireadvocacy.org.uk

Website: www.hampshireadvocacy.org.uk

? Frequently asked questions.... ?

“Can I refer someone to you for an IMCA if their relatives disagree with me or each other about what should happen?”

Only if the relatives are inappropriate to consult with—that is, they are unwilling or unable to take part in the decision making process. The fact that relatives may disagree with the decision maker is not enough in itself to make them inappropriate to consult with.

The code of practice gives some examples of when family members or friends may be inappropriate:

- ◆ if they are too frail or unwell
- ◆ if it is too impractical for them to be involved (i.e. they live too far away)
- ◆ if they refuse to be involved
- ◆ if you have adult protection concerns



IMCAs are like an 'informed relative' They:

- ◆ **Review information and options being considered**
- ◆ **Ask questions and look for alternatives**
- ◆ **Put the person who lacks capacity at the centre of the decision making process**



IMCAs don't:

- ◆ **Make a best interests decision**
- ◆ **Mediate between family members and professionals**
- ◆ **Make emergency decisions**



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**A consortium working together to promote advocacy across Hampshire
and the cities of Southampton and Portsmouth**

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