

Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)

The [Mental Capacity Act \(MCA\) 2005](#) states that once a standard authorisation under the [Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards \(DoLs\)](#) has been approved the supervisory body (NHS body or local authority) must appoint a relevant person's representative (RPR) as soon as possible and practical to represent the person who has been deprived of their liberty.

The role of the RPR is to maintain contact with the relevant person, and to represent and support the relevant person in all matters relating to the deprivation of liberty safeguards. Including, if appropriate, triggering a review, using appropriate complaints procedure on the person's behalf or making an application to the Court of Protection. RPRs must have regular, face-to-face contact with the person being deprived of their liberty, to ensure that their interests are being safeguarded. This means that the hospital or care home where the person is staying (the managing authority) must allow visits at reasonable times. The name of the RPR should be recorded in the person's health and social care records.

The RPR has an important role in the deprivation of liberty process. They represent the relevant person and provide support that is independent of the commissioners and providers of the services they are receiving. It is the role of the RPR to make sure that any conditions of the DoLs are being met and to inform the person of their rights and how to exercise those rights.

Once an authorisation is approved, the managing authority (hospital or care home) must ensure that the relevant person and their representative understand:

- the effect of the authorisation
- their right to request a review
- the formal and informal complaints procedures that are available to them
- their right to make an application to the Court of Protection to seek variation or termination of the authorisation
- their right, where the relevant person does not have a paid 'professional' representative, to request the support of an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)

An RPR can be a family member or a friend, or if not appropriate a paid RPR can be appointed.

There are certain rules guiding who can be an RPR. To be eligible they must be:

- 18 years of age or over
- able to keep in contact with the relevant person
- willing to be appointed.

Must **not** be:

- financially interested in the hospital or care home where the relevant person is being deprived of their liberty, or be a relative of a person who has a financial interest

- employed by, or providing services to, the care home in which the relevant person is residing or employed by the hospital in which the relevant person is residing in a role that is, or could be, related to their treatment or care
- employed to work in the relevant person's supervisory body in a role that is, or could be, related to the relevant person's case.

ICANN are able to provide suitably trained independent advocates as paid RPRs, who are fully supported and supervised by a trained IMCA.