How to get an advocate:
Contact our Sunderland team:

0191 917 9964

totalvoicesunderland@voiceability.org

voiceability.org/sunderland

Need this leaflet in another format? Contact us and we will help you to get the information you need.

An advocate can support you in your role as a "Relevant Person’s Representative".

When can I get an advocate?
First of all we would support you to understand what the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are and how they affect your friend or family member.

We’ll assist you in your role as the RPR by:
• Answering questions that you may have about your role.
• Explaining how best to approach your role.
• Talking you through the DoLS paperwork.
• Explaining what ‘conditions’ should be met by the care home/hospital.
• Talking through how you can make sure those conditions are being met and what to do if you feel they are not.
• Supporting you to raise any concerns you might have with the care home/hospital or the local authority.
• Supporting you to request a review of the DoLS if the person’s circumstances change.
• Supporting you to make a cost-free appeal to the Court of Protection where the person you are supporting is objecting to their placement.
• Attending meetings with you where necessary.

We would offer support over the phone in the first instance, but we are happy to meet with you whenever you need us.

What will your advocate do?
As a Relevant Person’s Representative (RPR), you play an important role in ensuring that the relevant person’s best interests are being safeguarded.

If you would like additional support in any aspect of your role, you might benefit from a free, independent advocate.

Making sure you get the assistance you need to support the relevant person.
Get the assistance you need to support your friend or family member

As a Relevant Person’s Representative (RPR), you play an important role in safeguarding the rights of your friend or family member.

If you would like support in any aspect of your role, you might benefit from an advocate called an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (sometimes called a 39D IMCA). This support will not cost you anything and is independent of any local authority, NHS trust or care home.

What will my advocate do?

We’ll assist you in your role as the RPR by:

- Helping you understand what Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are and how they affect your friend or family member.
- Answering questions that you may have about your role, and explaining how best to approach your role.
- Talking you through the DoLS paperwork.
- Explaining what ‘conditions’ should be met by the care home/hospital, talking through how you can make sure those conditions are being met and explaining what to do if you feel they are not.
- Supporting you to raise any concerns you might have with the care home/hospital or the local authority.
- Supporting you to request a review of the DoLS if the person’s circumstances change.
- Supporting you to make an appeal to the Court of Protection where the person you are supporting is objecting to their placement (Legal Aid funding is likely to be available to cover the cost; we can support you to get advice from a solicitor).
- Attending meetings with you where necessary.

When can I get an advocate?

We’ll be here to help you whenever you need us.

You can get support from an advocate now, or you might find that you would like one further down the line.