



advocacy
focus



Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Phone us on **0300 323 0965**

This guide has been written to meet
the UK Easy Read Standard

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

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1. About this booklet



- This booklet explains a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS)



- It is designed for people who have a DoLS in place. It may also be useful for family, friends or carers.



- It also explains who an **Independent Advocate** is and how they can help.



- The charity that provides this advocacy service is called Advocacy Focus.

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- Words in **bold** text are described in more detail at the end of the booklet.

2. What is Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS)



- **DoLS** is a **law** that means that it has been decided that you need to stay in a care home or hospital for care and treatment.



- This decision has been made for your **best interest**, to keep you safe.



- A **DoLS** makes rules to make sure you are looked after properly called **Safeguards**. For example, if you go outside, you may have to have someone with you.

3. What is an independent Advocate



- One of the rules of the **DoLS** is that you have a **representative**.



- If you have no family or friends **appropriate** to support you, an **Independent Advocate** will come and see you every month.



- Your **Independent Advocate** is there to support you.



Independent

- They are **independent**. They do not work for social services, the NHS, or other health care providers.



Free

- Their support is **free of charge**.



Confidential

- You can meet with them in private, your discussion is **confidential**.

4. What your Independent Advocate can do



- When you live in a care home or hospital, there are certain rules that how you should be treated and cared for.

- Your **Independent Advocate** will check that these rules are being followed.



- If you are unhappy with the rules, they can ask for a **review** to make changes to the rules.



- If you are still unhappy about the situation, your **Independent Advocate** can make an application to **the Court of Protection** to let a judge decide what is best.

5. How we helped Mr Edwards



"Mr Edwards lived in Darwen all of his life. Unfortunately he ended up living in a care home in Lytham, where he did not know the area and felt confined to his room. He would often pack his bags and tell staff that he wanted to go home.

Mr Edwards then communicated his wishes to his social worker supported by his **Independent Advocate** and following a best interest meeting, he was moved to a care home back in Darwen and he happily visits his old haunts unsupported."

6. Contact Advocacy Focus



- Phone us on
0300 323 0965
- Text us on
07886744634
- Email us at
admin@advocacyfocus.org.uk
- Visit our website at
www.advocacyfocus.org.uk

7. What do the words mean

In alphabetical order,

Appropriate

A appropriate adult is someone that can help you with your care and treatment. They have to be available when you need them to make them suitable.

Best Interest

This is when a decision is made that is best for the person.

Confidential

The private information you share with us will remain private unless you tell us to tell someone, or the law says we must reveal it for your safety or the safety of others.

Court of Protection

A special court which decides whether or not a person should be deprived of their liberty.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

This is the law that means you must stay in a care home or hospital and may stop you doing some things that you want to do.

Free of Charge

The **Independent Advocate** service is free of charge, so you do not need to pay a penny.

Independent Advocate / Independent

An **Independent Advocate** is there to support you. They do not work for the NHS, any other health care providers or the local authority. This means that they can give unbiased support.

Law

The Government has made a rule to make sure people are cared for in a way that is right called the **Mental Capacity Act 2005 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

This is a law all about making decisions and helps support people who make it difficult to make decisions.

Representative

A person, either family or friend or a paid Representative like an **Independent Advocate** who visits to check that the person is being looked after in the right way.

Review

A check to make sure the person is being treated in the right way

Safeguard

This is a rule in place to make sure you are looked after properly.