

Advent Advocacy is a nationwide advocacy service, supporting service users in hospitals, residential care homes and health care environments covering a wide array of specialties ranging from Forensic services through to Child and Adolescent services.



WE AIM TO...

Empower service users and help represent their views, wants and wishes.

Safeguard service users rights and provide any information they require to make informed decisions.

Ensure a flexible service that adapts to the varying needs of each service user.

Provide a non-adversarial approach that supports service users to obtain the best outcomes together with service providers.

Provide comprehensive reporting structures, which enable the recording of our activities and assist service providers to identify trends and areas of need.



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IMHA

INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY

From Advent Advocacy

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE (IMHA)?

IMHAs are specialist advocates who are trained to work with service users detained under the Mental Health Act. IMHAs are independent from other professionals involved in your care.

They help service users obtain information on, and understand:

- **Your rights under the Mental Health Act.**
- **The rights which the Mental Health Act gives to others (for example your nearest relative).**
- **Which parts of the Mental Health Act apply to you.**
- **Any restrictions you are subject to.**
- **Any medical treatment you are receiving or might be given.**
- **The reasons for any treatment.**
- **The legal authority for providing any treatment.**

Independent Mental Health Advocacy is a statutory requirement under the Mental Health Act, and therefore your right to access an IMHA.



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YOUR IMHA HAS A RIGHT TO:

- **Speak to professionals with you, or on your behalf (including meetings).**
- **Access clinical and social records, with your consent.**
- **Meet with you confidentially.**

Our IMHAs support you to exercise your rights and will value, respect and promote your views and wishes.

Your advocate will only act under your instruction.

IMHAs are not legal representatives and cannot provide you with their opinions.

WHO IS ENTITLED TO AN IMHA?

1. Those detained under the Mental Health Act, including those on leave from hospital.
2. Informal patients considered for Section 57 treatment.
3. Patients under 18 years old being considered for Section 58A treatment.
4. Those under a Community Treatment Order (CTO).
5. Restricted Patients on Conditional Discharge.

WHO IS NOT ENTITLED TO AN IMHA?

Those on emergency application (Section 4), who are on holding powers (Section 5) or in a place of safety under Section 135 / 136.

If you are not entitled to an IMHA you can still access advocacy support through a generic Independent Advocate.

