



Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) WIRRAL

What is an IMCA?

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (the Act) came into force in 2007, it provides a statutory framework to empower and protect vulnerable people who may not be able to make their own decisions. The Act introduced the new statutory role of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) to support people who lack capacity to make certain decisions.

Local Authorities and NHS bodies have a duty to instruct an IMCA to support a person if they meet the criteria as laid out in the Act.

An IMCA **must** be instructed where:

- There is a decision to be made regarding either **serious medical treatment** or **change of accommodation**.
AND
- The person has no close family or friends to represent their views
AND
- The person has been deemed as not to have capacity to make the decision in accordance with the assessment of capacity as defined in the Act.

Extension of the IMCA role

As well as the main duties for an IMCA as outlined above, IMCA's may also be instructed in relation to **Safeguarding Adults** Procedures and Care Reviews. Each Local Authority will define criteria for when to refer to the IMCA service in these situations.

**For referrals, and information call Wired:
0844 880 1500**

OR

Email: contact@wired.me.uk

Website: www.wired.me.uk