

# Independent support for people under a DoLS authorisation and their Representatives



We offer free, confidential and independent advocacy services to help people understand their rights, be treated as equals and be heard.

# Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) introduced a legal framework and right to appeal to protect people who lack capacity to consent to being deprived of their liberty, who are not detained under the Mental Health Act. People who meet this criteria are detained via a standard authorisation. This ensures a vulnerable person only has their liberty taken away if it is in their best interests with no less restrictive alternative. The Supervisory Body, otherwise known as 'DoLS Team' decides if a person can lawfully be deprived of their liberty after an assessment takes place.

The assessment will help the Supervisory Body decide if a deprivation of liberty needs to be authorised and for how long. This is called a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) authorisation. Everyone who has an authorisation must have a representative appointed to support them. This is a vital role in ensuring the person deprived of their liberty is safeguarded. A representative can be a family member or a friend.

If you are the representative for a family member or friend you will have certain roles and responsibilities which you are expected to carry out. These include:

- Visiting the person deprived of their liberty on a regular basis,
- Assisting the person to understand their authorisation as far as possible and how it affects them,
- Assisting the person to exercise their rights should they wish to do so,
- Ensure any conditions of the authorisation are met and if not, facilitate the address of this or refer back to the supervisory body / DoLS team,
- Call for a review of the authorisation where necessary,
- Challenge the authorisation through local means where possible, or ultimately challenge through the Court of Protection.

If you are a person deprived of their liberty or their representative you are entitled to free support from an advocate. The advocate will support you with anything to do with the DoLS authorisation, from understanding what this means through to exercising your rights.

If you think you may benefit from the support of one of our advocates contact your DoLS team and ask for a referral to be made.

# How to contact us:



telephone - 0300 456 2370 (charged at local rate)



minicom - 0300 456 2364



text - send the word 'pohwer' with your name and number to 81025



email - [pohwer@pohwer.net](mailto:pohwer@pohwer.net)



Skype - [pohwer.advocacy](https://www.skype.com/pohwer/advocacy)  
(8am to 6pm Monday to Friday)



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## Access to information

- We provide leaflets and information in a variety of languages and formats, Easy Read, audio and DVDs
- We have access to translation and interpreting services
- We use communication toolkits, Makaton and other signing techniques

