



## Welcome Care Home

### Role of RPR

#### **5 Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)**

If your DoLS authorisation request is granted, someone must be appointed to represent your interests, called the Relevant Person's

Representative (RPR). The role of the RPR is to keep in contact with you and make sure decisions are being made in your best interests.

##### **5.1 Who is the RPR?**

The RPR is usually a relative or friend of you. If there is no appropriate friend or relative, it is someone appointed by the supervisory body, possibly a paid professional. It must be someone who can keep in regular contact with you. The RPR is chosen by:

- ☐ You, as the person whose liberty is being deprived, if you have capacity to choose, or
- ☐ Your attorney or deputy if there is one with authority to make this decision, or
- ☐ The best interests assessor, or
- ☐ The supervisory body.

The RPR must not be:

- ☐ Financially interested in the managing authority (for example, the director of the care home) or related to someone who is
- ☐ employed by (or providing services to) the care home (where the managing authority is a care home)
- ☐ employed by the hospital in a role related to their care (where the managing authority is a hospital), or
- ☐ employed by the supervisory body in a role that is, or could be, related to your case.

The person chosen or recommended to be the RPR can refuse the role, in which case an alternative person must be identified.

Age UK factsheet 62 February 2018

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Page 16 of 26

##### **5.2 The role of the RPR**



## Welcome Care Home

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Your RPR should support and represent you in any matter relating to your deprivation of liberty. They have a duty to act in your best interests.

Your RPR must be given written notice of the authorisation including the purpose of the deprivation of liberty and its duration. They must be given information on your care to enable them to check decisions are being made in your best interests and that any conditions attached to the authorisation are being complied with.

Your RPR can apply for a review of your deprivation of liberty. This could be necessary if there is a change of circumstances and the managing authority has not informed the supervisory body of this.

#### **Note**

Your RPR can apply to the Court of Protection on your behalf to challenge your DoLS authorisation. Non means-tested legal aid is available for this.

You and your RPR have the right to be supported by an IMCA, unless your RPR is a paid representative. An IMCA is an independent professional who can support your RPR by making sure they understand their role and can carry it out effectively.

### **5.3 Replacement of the RPR**

If your RPR cannot keep up their duties, for example they move away and can no longer visit you regularly, they should be replaced. If the RPR feels they cannot carry out the role effectively any longer, they should notify the supervisory body.

In **England**, this is the local authority. In Wales, it is the local authority for care homes and the Local Health Board for hospitals. If the care home or hospital is concerned your RPR is not carrying out the role properly, they should discuss this with the RPR and if still not satisfied they should notify the supervisory body.



Welcome Care Home

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You can object to your RPR if you have the capacity to make this decision, in which case the supervisory body should replace them.

Your replacement RPR should be selected following the recommendation of someone qualified to be a best interests assessor.

An IMCA should be appointed while there is no RPR in place, if you have no family or friends to support you.

Age UK factsheet 62 February 2018

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Page 17 of 26