

# What is a Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)?



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When someone is or may be deprived of their liberty under a DoLS authorisation, the law calls them the 'Relevant Person'.

The law says the Relevant Person must have a 'Representative'. This means someone to help make sure their views, wishes and rights are respected.

## What is a DoLS authorisation?

'Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards' (DoLS) is a law to protect people who lack capacity to consent to restrictions on their freedom. It says people can only be restricted when it is in their best interests.

A care setting must apply for a 'DoLS authorisation' to get permission, before they can deprive someone of their liberty.

### **Each DoLS authorisation:**

- allows deprivation of liberty in a specific way for a specific period
- is unique to the individual
- may have conditions attached

### **A DoLS authorisation may say that staff can, when necessary:**

- prevent a person from leaving the place where they're being given the care they need
- keep a person under continuous supervision and control in their best interests, to protect them from harm

Staff at a care setting should always keep the RPR informed of any changes to the conditions of a DoLS authorisation.

# What does an RPR do?

During a DoLS authorisation, the RPR will:

- visit the person regularly to ask their views and wishes
- support the person to understand their situation and rights under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- check that the care setting is keeping to any conditions of the authorisation
- as far as possible, help the person to understand their authorisation and how it affects them, and support them to exercise their rights if they want to do that

If necessary, an RPR can request a review of the authorisation, or support the person to make an application to the Court of Protection to get the authorisation changed or ended.

Even when someone can't tell their RPR what they want, the RPR will use a range of approaches to establish their views and wishes as far as possible and secure their rights.

## Who can be an RPR?

**The RPR can be:**

- a friend or family member, who does the role unpaid
- a professional, such as an advocate, who is paid

**A paid RPR may be needed if:**

- there are no friends or family members suitable and willing to be an RPR
- there is a gap before a new RPR can take up the role

# Contact us

If you have questions about the RPR role, contact us.

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Freephone:

**0300 303 1660**

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Email: [helpline@voiceability.org](mailto:helpline@voiceability.org)

Website: [voiceability.org](https://voiceability.org)

## Who can request a paid RPR?

To request a paid RPR, you must be from the Supervisory Body. The Supervisory Body is the local authority or local health board that is responsible for appointing an RPR.

If you are from a Supervisory Body, request a paid RPR by sending your RPR paperwork to [helpline@voiceability.org](mailto:helpline@voiceability.org)

## About VoiceAbility

We've been supporting people to have their say in decisions about their health, care and wellbeing for almost 40 years. We're an independent charity and one of the UK's largest providers of advocacy and involvement services.