



Call for Expressions of Interest

Regulation of Independent Advocacy
Preparation of Discussion Document

Call for Expression of Interest – Regulation of Independent Advocacy

The right to have your voice heard and to participate in making decisions that affect you is a fundamental principle in a democratic society. It is a principle simply stated as "Nothing about you /without you". In circumstances where people may be vulnerable, or have to depend on others, there is a need to ensure that their rights, freedoms and dignity are promoted and protected. Through support and advocacy, the will and preference of a person can be heard and acted on, independent of family, service provider or systems interests.

Independent Advocacy is an emerging practice primarily located within the health and social care sectors but increasingly addressing complex issues faced by vulnerable adults at risk in a much wider range of sectors, including finance, housing and law. The Report of the Law Reform Commission on Adult Safeguarding (April 2024) suggested that the issue of regulation of independent advocacy should be considered by government. This is a welcome development long called for by Sage Advocacy which developed Quality Standards in 2015 shortly after it was established.

Sage Advocacy has a strong reputation for independence of thought and action and is a 'go to' service in relation to issues of capacity and decision making. Its approach is to collaborate where possible and to challenge where necessary. **It is now calling for Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and experienced individuals or organisations to prepare a discussion document on the issue of regulation of independent advocacy which will enable Sage consider options and possible approaches when engaging with government, stakeholder organisations and potential regulatory bodies on this issue.**

Prior to submission of an Expression of Interest you may find it useful to have an informal discussion in which case please contact Mervyn Taylor Organisation Support at mervynr.taylor@sageadvocacy.ie or +353 86 8227998.

Respondents to this Call for Expressions of Interest should provide the following:

- Full names and contact details of all individuals who propose to undertake the work.
- Detailed individual or corporate CV setting out all relevant work and publications with embedded links to the documents / resources where possible or attachments where necessary.
- An indication of daily rates and special rates which might apply for extensive pieces or periods of work and related expense charges and of any willingness to provide an element of services pro bono.
- Any other information which is felt to be relevant. This may include reviews, commentary or media coverage of relevant work.

The closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is **17:00 Tuesday 30th September 2025**.

Expressions should be emailed to recruitment@sageadvocacy.ie following which there will be a process of discussion with the chosen candidates(s).