



**“Losing your marbles” is one thing...  
...having them stolen is another.**

**sage**  
advocacy

Protecting your right to make your own decisions, with support if necessary, is vitally important for your future wellbeing. Some people think they can take control of your life and your affairs and make decisions for you in your 'best interests'. But control of your personal finances or the place where you live or are cared for, by someone you have not asked to make decisions for you, may be in someone else's 'best interests'.

**Sage Representatives deal with issues like his every day.**

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## Information/Rapid Response Service

**1850 71 94 00** 8am – 10pm daily

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# Her life fitted into a suitcase



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She was 85 and had been in a nursing home for nine months to recover from an illness. Now fit and ready to return home to her friends and her cat, her red suitcase had been packed for six weeks - She missed her home and the life she had before going into the nursing home. Some staff thought she needed her family's permission to leave. They threatened to call the Gardaí. She went to her room, ate humble pie and cried herself to sleep. She contacted Sage and is now back in her own home and content.

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An elderly woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair is seated in a black wheelchair, viewed from the side. She is wearing a light pink long-sleeved shirt and is holding a white coffee cup on a saucer with both hands. A caregiver's hands are visible, one resting on the wheelchair's backrest and another holding her hand. The background is a bright, out-of-focus window showing greenery outside. The overall mood is one of care and support.

**A gilded cage  
is still a cage**

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advocacy

“If it would be a deprivation of my liberty to be obliged to live in a particular place, subject to constant monitoring and control, only allowed out with close supervision, and unable to move away without permission even if such an opportunity became available, then it must also be a deprivation of the liberty of a disabled person. The fact that my living arrangements are comfortable, and indeed make my life as enjoyable as it could possibly be, should make no difference. A gilded cage is still a cage”. Baroness Hale. President of the Supreme Court. UK. March 19, 2015.

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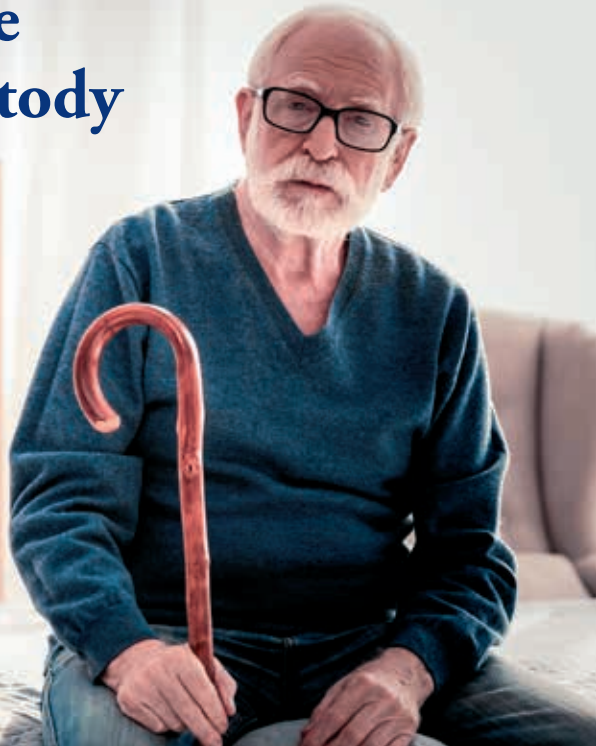
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**For you it is care  
for him it is custody**

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Sometimes people are forced to live in congregated care settings because of the lack of supports and services in their community. Sometimes they are tricked or threatened into residential care facilities because others question their ability to make the decision for themselves and make the decision for them. Protection of liberty in places of care is vital if they are not to become informal places of custody.

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A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a key to a door lock. The person is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and blue overalls. The key is a simple, light-colored metal key. The door is dark-colored with a silver handle and lock mechanism. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white wall.

My daughter changed  
the locks when I was  
in hospital

sage  
advocacy

Most children love and respect their parents. Sadly some 'adult children' see growing frailty in a parent as an opportunity to take control of their assets; usually when they are in hospital for a prolonged period. Sometimes they justify it to themselves because they believe it is their inheritance. It is mean, it is dishonest and it is a crime.

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**Do healthcare  
Professionals  
always know best?**

Some of the finest doctors and nurses in the world work in the Irish health service. They are highly respectful of the will and preference of their patients and act as advocates for them within the limits of their role. Some, however have more authoritarian values and their paternalism/maternalism shows in the way that they seek to make decisions in their patient's 'best interests'. Sometimes, inappropriately, they take the side of family members who confuse their own interests with their relative's 'best interests'.

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**Feeling lost  
in the corridors of  
powerlessness?**

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advocacy

Even the strongest and healthiest people can feel vulnerable if they have to spend some time in an acute hospital. People who are already vulnerable can become even more vulnerable and they can feel powerless and disoriented in a strange environment, where they are lying horizontal under bright lights hearing unfamiliar sounds. They may be afraid or unable to speak up. Patient advocacy can help people find their way and feel less powerless.

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**Not everyone  
is happy in  
a nappy**

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Some older people and people with disabilities are, on occasion, encouraged to use incontinence wear; even though they are continent. Sometime 'convenience medication' is used in the process of encouragement. Inappropriate use of incontinence wear for the convenience of staff, even if they are short-staffed on night duty is a gross violation of a person's human rights. It constitutes inhuman and degrading treatment.

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The background features a dark teal gradient. On the left, there is a silhouette of a trident with three sharp points. To its right is a silhouette of a devil's head with horns. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

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**Even the Devil  
is entitled to an  
Advocate**

People often say they are acting as 'The Devil's Advocate' when they want to voice an opinion that not everyone may want to hear. If you are a vulnerable adult, an older person or a healthcare patient you may find it necessary to have someone support and advocate for you; independent of family, service providers and systems interests. If even the Devil is entitled to an advocate so should you. Just make sure it is an Independent Advocate.

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