

## Decision-making and Consent

– Supporting decision-making in the absence of a legal framework

## **SAGE Contracts of Care for Nursing Home Residents – Policy and Practise. A Discussion Document**

SAGE is a support and advocacy service working within Third Age, a national voluntary organisation for older people.

In a discussion paper produced in September 2017 SAGE examined the matter of contracts for care for nursing home residents. Many of the important issues identified and many of the recommendations made are also applicable to contracts of care (written agreements or contracts for services) designated centres for persons with disability.

### **Contracts of care – matters relevant to disability services**

The document looks at how contracts for care are structured and their content. It looks at how they are presented and entered into by those involved. It considers the matter of reduced decision-making capacity and the difficulty that creates in engaging with, agreeing to and signing a contract.

Other applicable issues raised include the absence of realistic alternative support in the community, so making the move to a home inevitable rather than a choice and provisions for termination of contract that are less favourable than would apply in standard tenancy agreements.

Contractual terms that promote improved person-centred care and protection of the person's human rights and dignity are presented and the need for accessible information and independent advocacy is also addressed.

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[www.sageadvocacy.ie/media/1126/sage-nursing-home-contracts-discussion-document-sept-2017.pdf](http://www.sageadvocacy.ie/media/1126/sage-nursing-home-contracts-discussion-document-sept-2017.pdf)

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