

FACT SHEET

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

What is the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA)?

The Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) was created to:

- Promote the rights of people with mental incapacity.
- Help people with impaired decision-making capacity, their family, carers and friends.
- Provide information to other organisations.

OPA provides Information and Education about:

- Consent to Medical Treatment
- Advance Care Directives
- Guardianship and Administration
- Mental Health

OPA Dispute Resolution Service can provide Preliminary Assistance and Mediation if:

- A person has made an Advance Care Directive (ACD).
- There is a dispute about consent to medical treatment.
- There is a disagreement about decisions or decision-makers.

The Public Advocate can be appointed by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) as a Guardian of Last Resort if:

- A person has a mental incapacity.
- There is a lifestyle, accommodation, and/or health decision to be made.
- There is no other appropriate person to be appointed.

SACAT can direct OPA to investigate a person's circumstances if:

- SACAT have received an application,
- The person is believed to have impaired decision-making capacity, and
- There is risk of harm to the person.

OPA can advocate for:

- The rights and interests of individuals with mental incapacity.
- Systemic change.
- Legislative and/or operational change.

The Public Advocate is an independent statutory officer, accountable to the South Australian Parliament. The Office is separate from the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).



Government of South Australia

Office of the Public Advocate