

Introduction

- Advocacy.
- What is it?



Voice



Choice



Control

History of advocacy

- 1950s – scandals in long stay hospitals
- 1960s – increasing awareness of rights and the way people are treated who need services
- 1966 – Wolf Wolfensburger established the first Citizen Advocacy project in America
- 1979 – first Citizen Advocacy project in London
- 1983 and 1984 – developments in advocacy for mental health patients, people with learning difficulties, and children
- 1980s – to date – legislative and policy changes based on the rights of individuals to have a voice, choice and representation

Advocacy definitions

- **“Advocacy is taking action to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the services they need.**
- **“Advocates and advocacy schemes work in partnership with the people they support and take their side.**
- **“Advocacy promotes social inclusion, equality and social justice.” Advocacy Charter, Action for Advocacy (2002)**

Principles of advocacy

Independence

Clarity of purpose

Person-centred approach

Empowerment

Equal opportunity

Accountability

Accessibility

Supporting advocates

Confidentiality

Complaints

Safeguarding

Purpose of advocacy



What is advocacy?

Befriending

Counselling

Choices

Mediation

Legal support

Rights

Having a voice

Support

Advice

Dependency

Empowerment

**Making
decisions**

Impartial

Representation

Advocacy isn't:

Befriending

Counselling

Mediation

Advice

Impartial

Dependency

Legal support

Advocacy is:

Support

Representation

Empowerment

Choices

Rights

Having a voice

Making decisions

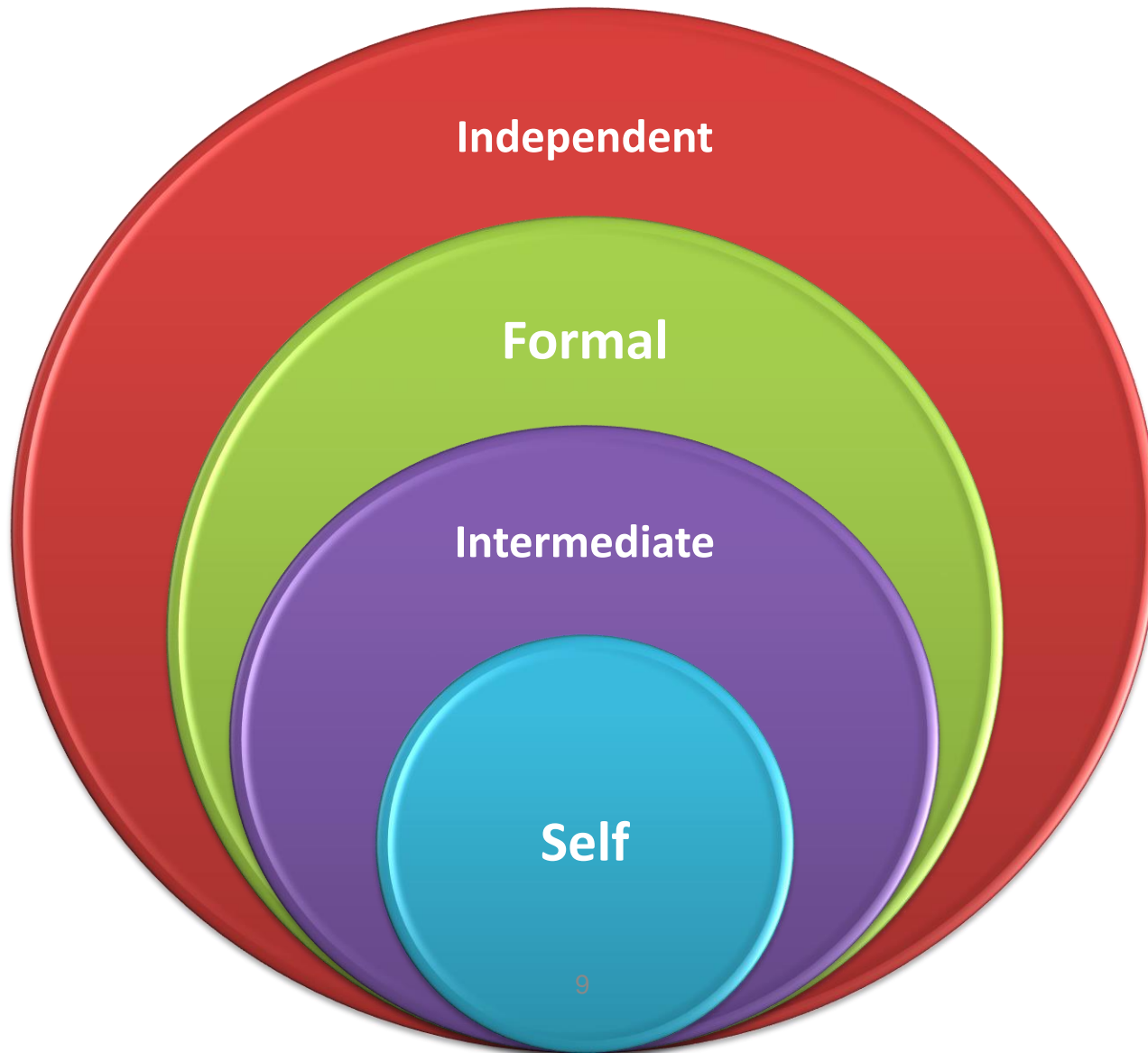
Advocacy is also about:



Advocacy relationship

- A relationship based on trust and empowerment
- Not based on best interests, but on what the individual's wishes are
- Able to identify abuse
- No conflict of interest
- Individual is at the centre of making their own decisions and choices

Types of advocacy



Benefits of advocacy: Exercise

In what circumstances have you had to advocate for someone in the past and in which style/model was it?



What are the benefits of advocacy to
a) individuals, and
b) organisations?

Independent Professional Advocacy

- Independent Professional Advocacy is not meant to replace other forms
- It is important that professionals and carers keep speaking up for people's rights and care
- An Independent Professional Advocate has a specific role and function
- With no other role in a persons' life, an Independent Professional Advocate is focused solely on maximising an individuals' voice, involvement, control of their own life, and rights.

To advocate or not to advocate: Exercise

Why might an individual require and wish to engage an Independent Professional Advocate rather than take the support of a professional, family member, friend or carer.



In what ways might you have a conflict of interest if someone asked you to speak up on their behalf?



Are there any conflicts that people might assume there are even if you don't think there are?

Rights – UN and European Conventions

United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

United Nations Principles for Older Persons

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

European Convention on Human Rights

Exercise on barriers to rights

What are the potential barriers to individuals being able to exercise their rights?



Why is the role of an Independent Professional Advocate important in ensuring rights are upheld?

Potential barriers to rights

- Unable to participate
- Not knowing what their rights are
- Not understanding how they apply to the individual
- Not having the right information, not being able to access it
- Not having support to understand how rights apply to someone
- Not being able to challenge them or be frightened to challenge
- Unable to stand up for oneself
- Feeling alone and not having the confidence to speak up
- Living in fear of others
- Not wanting to make a fuss
- Lack of capacity
- Services not understanding what people's rights are

Why is the role of an Independent Professional Advocate important in ensuring rights are upheld?

- The individual doesn't want someone from health or the local authority supporting them
- An advocate has no conflict of interest
- Time to spend with someone exploring what rights need to be upheld/challenged, etc
- One-to-one relationship of trust and confidence
- Another person might not be equipped to stand up for an individual's rights
- An alternative person may be abusing the individual or have coercive control over them
- There may be no one else to help them
- Someone else may be acting in their best interests instead of putting the individual's views, wishes and feelings at the centre of the process
- Someone else might put their own feelings or interests ahead of those of the individual

Reflection of Module 1

1

- Give three examples of what advocacy is and isn't

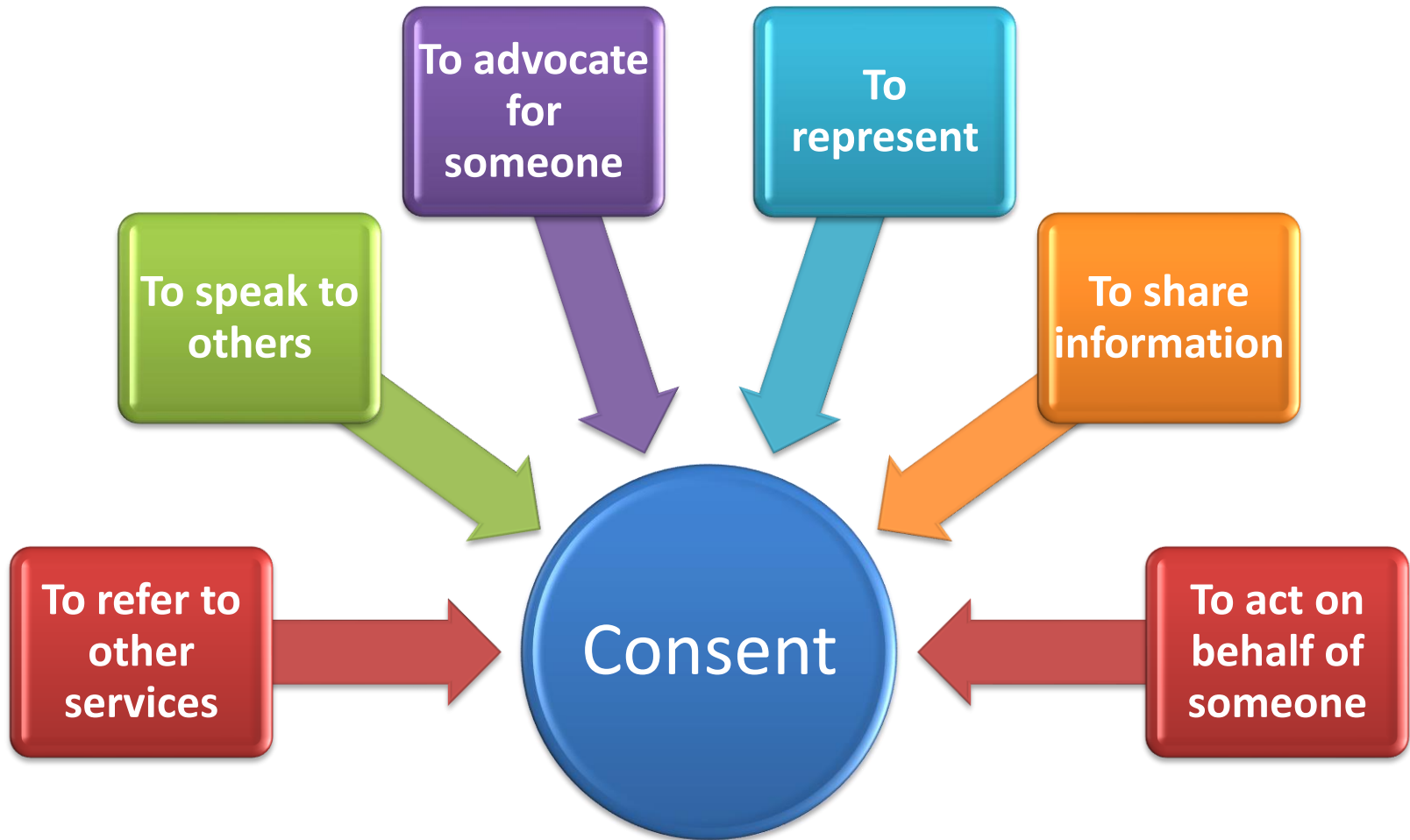
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- Why is the role of an Independent Professional Advocate important?

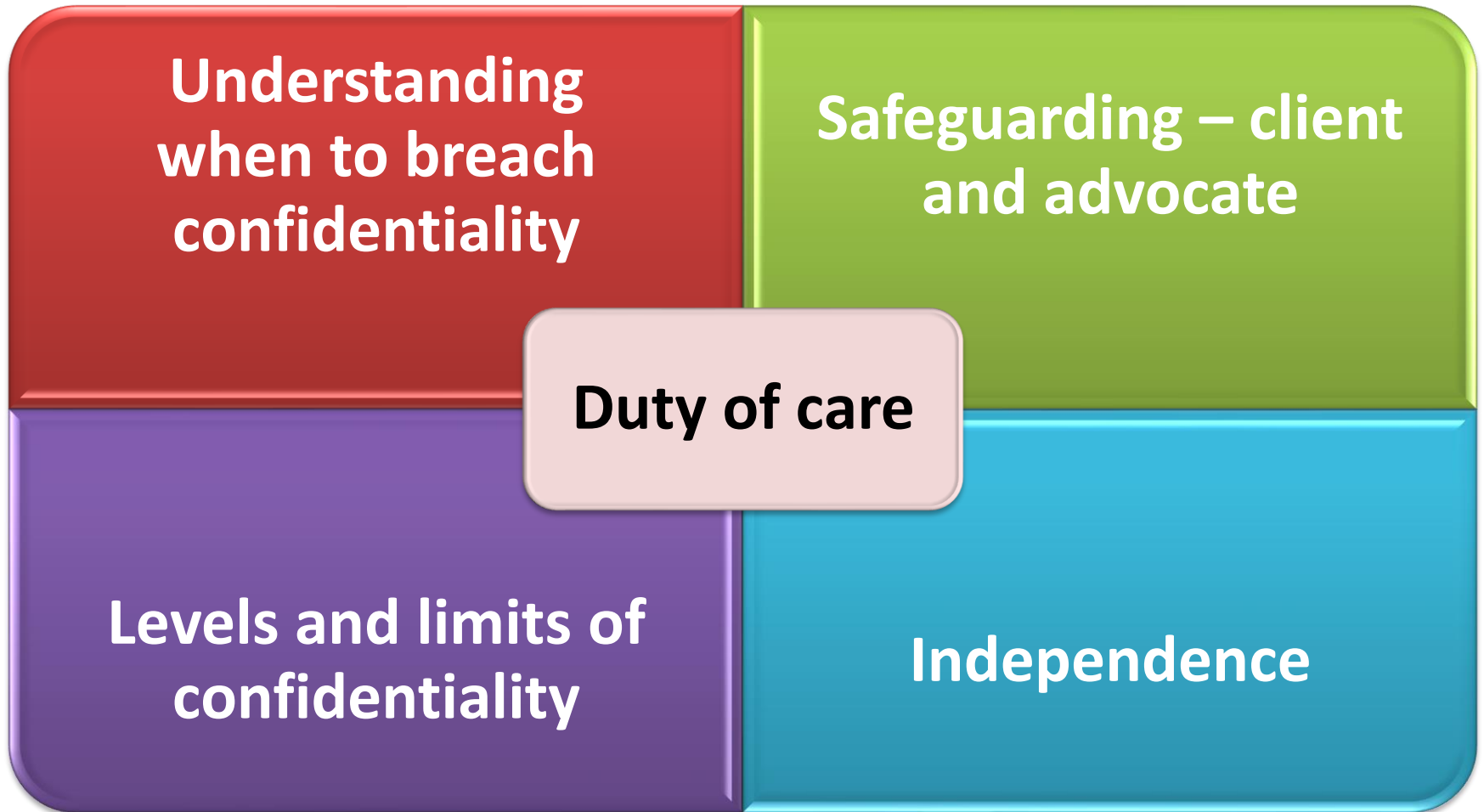
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- In one minute, explain the role of an advocate

Advocacy and consent



Confidentiality in an advocacy partnership



Risk and the principles of advocacy



Benefits of advocacy

Support the individual in being the expert in their own life

Ability to respond to the barriers of participation

Independent with no conflict of interest

Time and support to explore options

Support to explore options in decision making

Support to be heard

Empowerment to express their own needs

Support to fully engage and participate

Other related overarching duties



Views



Wishes



Feelings



Participation

When to engage an Independent Professional Advocate

