

informed consent

why does the person need to give consent for a circle of support?

Consent is a fundamental element that informs the Circle of Support guiding principles. A person needs to give consent for a Circle of Support if it is to be person-centred.

what is informed consent?

Consent is a basic human right. When giving informed consent, the person is provided with all relevant background information and has the capacity to understand the choice they are making. It is a process of making a decision while having the knowledge of the purpose, nature, consequence, risk and alternatives to the situation. Acquiring informed consent enables a person to self-determine, empowering them to make and be more involved in the decisions that impact their lives.

how do I get informed consent from a person to start a circle of support?

To gain informed consent from a person when facilitating the development of a Circle of Support, you need to ensure they have knowledge of the purpose, consequence and alternatives to a Circle of Support.



conversations for consent

Before explaining, ensure you understand the core functions of a Circle of Support. Take into consideration the person's communication abilities.

Here are some tips on how to have a conversation for informed consent:

- Explain what a Circle of Support is, in a way that the person will understand and comprehend.
Example: A Circle of Support is based around you and the people in your life.
- Show the Circle of Support video included with this kit.
- Personalise the concept by discussing the ways in which a Circle can help to improve a person's life and how it helps people to reach their goals.
- Get the person to talk about the people that are in their life, or who they would invite.
- Draw a picture of the circle of relationships and explain about the people that are in a Circle of Support. Refer to page 15 of the Circles of Support guide.
- Talk about the kinds of things that the Circle of Support might help the person achieve or do.
- Discuss any potential consequences, both positive and negative of the Circle of Support.
- Above all, allow the person time to talk about the Circle of Support in their own words, specifically what the Circle will do, why the Circle meets and the kinds of people that are in the Circle.
- Confirm that this is something that they want to do.