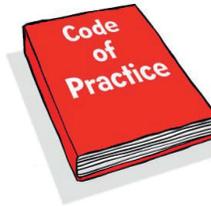


What the words mean

Mental Capacity Act	A law about making decisions and what to do when people cannot make some decisions for themselves
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)	Rules about giving people the special protection they need in a hospital or care home
lacking capacity	When people cannot make a decision for themselves
deprived of your liberty	Stopping someone from doing the things they want all the time in a hospital
representative	A person who visits someone who is lacking capacity to check they are looked after in a way that means they are safe
Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)	A representative who does not work as part of the hospital and is there when you do not have a friend or family member available
Supervisory body	The people who decide if someone needs Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
Court of Protection	A special court which decides whether or not a person should be deprived of their liberty

How to find out more about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

There is a rule book about Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards called the Code of Practice.



Everybody caring for you has to follow these rules.

The code of Practice tells you more about the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

You can see it at:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/files/deprivation-liberty-safeguards-code-practice>

How to appeal against being deprived of your liberty under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

If you (or your representative) are reading this because you are deprived of your liberty, you can contact the Court of Protection at:

Court of Protection
PO Box 70185
First Avenue House
42-49 High Holborn
London, WC1A 9JA
United Kingdom



Telephone: 0300 456 4600



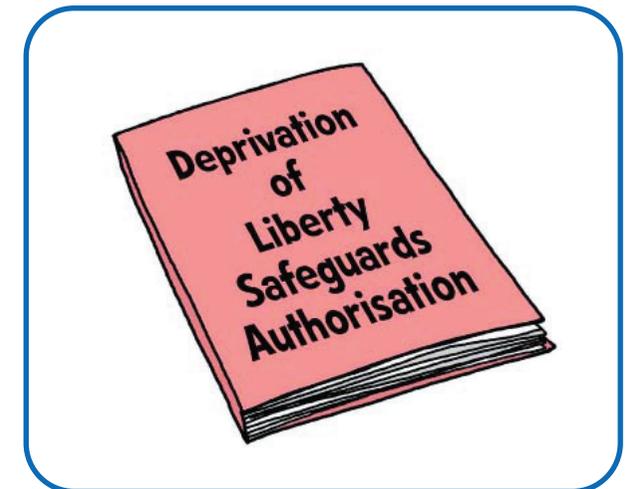
Email:

courtofprotectionenquiries@justice.gov.uk



Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards & You

An easy read guide



One + all | we care

What is the Mental Capacity Act?

The **Mental Capacity Act** is a law about making decisions and what to do when people cannot make some decisions for themselves. **The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)** are a part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.



When people cannot make a decision for themselves, this is called **lacking capacity**. You might be able to make **some** decisions, but not able to make **other** decisions.



The Mental Capacity Act tells other people how to find out if you can make your own decisions at the current time.



How does it affect me?

Sometimes you may need treatment or care from people like Doctors and Nurses if you are staying in hospital.



People who are lacking capacity need extra protection.



You should be treated or cared for in a way that means you are safe and are free to do the things you want to do.



If you are restricted from doing the things you want all the time, this is called being **deprived of your liberty**. Sometimes people having treatment or care might be deprived of their liberty to keep them safe.

When you are being deprived of liberty in hospital, the hospital will apply for an authorisation for a **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)**. This will allow the hospital to make decisions about your care on your behalf, making sure the decisions are in your best interests and help you to get to a healthy state to be discharged.

This will mean the hospital will have control to decide when you **are** and **are not** allowed to leave.



What happens if I get a Deprivation of Liberty?

Everyone who has a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Authorisation must have a **representative**. This can be a friend or family member. Do not worry if you do not have someone as you will then be provided with an **Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)**. They will be independent from the hospital and will act as your representative.



The representative will help to make decisions about your care on your behalf. If you or anyone else is unhappy about you being deprived of your liberty, they can ask for a review. A review is a check to make sure you are being treated the right way, and will be done by the **supervisory body** (Cornwall Council).



If you or your representative disagree about you being deprived of your liberty, you can ask a special court called the **Court of Protection** to decide whether you should be deprived of your liberty or not.

