

Information for Families when the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are being Considered

A request has been made to assess your family member for a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) authorisation. Subsequently it is important for you to be aware of the following:

Summary information is available to explain the process to you. Please ask the member of staff in charge. The following information is also available:

- Mental Capacity Act (2005) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS): A guide for family, friends and unpaid carers
- Mental Capacity Act (2005) Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS): A guide for the relevant person's representatives.
- Information about making an application to the Court of Protection to challenge an authorisation

Face to face appointments can be arranged for you to speak with the assessors, although this may not be possible in every case. If you wish for this to happen please make it known to the member of staff in charge at the care home or hospital, and ask for the contact details of the assessors.

Information will be gathered; therefore it is important that your family member's information in the care environment is up to date and accurate. Please ask the staff member in charge if you can view the information being held in the care plan.

The assessors will ask for a copy of the resident's personal story which may be called "All about me" or "This is me" or something similar. If such a personal account does not exist, please consider starting to complete one with your family member.

The assessors will also carry a letter as proof of identification if you wish to see it before providing personal information.

If you require further information please go to:

The Stockton Information Directory: The Stockton Information Directory:
www.stocktoninformationdirectory/dols

www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capacity-act-deprivation-of-liberty-safeguards

If your family member has dementia, you can access information and support from:
The LiveWell Hub, Thorntree Road, Thornaby, TS17 8AP or ring 01642 527363

What is a deprivation of liberty?

Liberty means being free to do the things you want to do, when you want to do them.

There is no list of what a **deprivation of liberty** is, but examples could include:

- Staff in a care home or hospital having control over all of the decisions in your life
- Not being free to leave the hospital where you are staying or the care home where you live

Deprivation of liberty is about:

- The way that other people care for you and treat you
- The way you feel about the way that people care for you and treat you
- The way that the people who care for you and treat you can stop you doing all the things you enjoy.

If you are stopped from doing the things you want all the time in a hospital or care home, this is called being deprived of your liberty. If you are being cared for and treated in this way you must have a special agreement called a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Authorisation to keep you safe.

This is the law.

Some other important information

Any person with a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Authorisation and the person speaking up for them (the Relevant Person's Representative) can ask the Court of Protection to look at the authorisation if the person deprived of liberty doesn't agree with it. Any other person can also apply to the Court about a DoLS, but would need permission to do so.

More information about DoLS can be found at www.stockton.gov.uk/dols

This information has been taken and adapted/amended from The Mental Capacity Act 2005 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and You Easy Read (Department of Health 2009). It contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.