

# Why do we need the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)?

Sometimes you may need treatment or care from people like doctors and nurses or care workers if you are staying in a hospital or living in a care home.

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 stopped 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.

If this happened to you it would have to be in your best interests. People would have to think very carefully about the decisions they make for you, to make sure those decisions are good for you. (You can find out more about what this means in the **Mental Capacity Act**.)

If you are deprived of your liberty you need special protection called **safeguards** to make sure you are looked after properly and are kept safe. The **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards** are the way to give you the special protection you need.

# 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](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/dols)**

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