

## Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

What you need to know about Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

# **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)**

This factsheet is to help you understand what Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) is and how it may impact you or a family member/friend.

## **What does DoLS mean?**

DoLS is part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and is designed to protect your rights if you are deprived of your liberty. It must be in your best interests to take away your liberty. For example, to prevent you experiencing harm and to keep you safe.

## **Who do the Mental Capacity Act safeguards apply to?**

The Mental Capacity Act safeguards apply to:

- People over 18
- People whose freedom is being restricted
- People who lack the mental capacity to make decisions about their treatment or care
- People who have an impairment of or a disturbance in the functioning of the mind or brain

## **Can I get support and representation?**


You have the right to have a representative who will support you through the DoLS process. This could be a family member, a friend or an advocate.

If there is no-one suitable to represent you, don't worry; the local authority can arrange for you to be supported by an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA).

You or your representative has the right to challenge a decision or ask for it to be reviewed.

## **What can I do if I have concerns about a deprivation of liberty?**

If you feel you or someone else is being deprived of their liberty without authorisation in a hospital, care home or another setting, please contact our First Response team on the number below:

 **Call:** 0800 137915 (24 hours a day)

**Use this space to write down things you need to remember to tell us**

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## **How to contact us**

### **Adult Care Services**


To get more information about adult social care services you can:

 **Go online:** [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk) and click on 'Care for Adults'


 **Call:** Social worker: \_\_\_\_\_ Team: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Are you worried about somebody?**


If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:

 **Call:** 0800 137915 (24 hours a day)

### **If you would like to give us feedback**

 **Go online:** Please complete the online form at [buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

If you prefer you can:

 **Call:** 01296 387844

 **Email:** [complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:complimentsandcomplaints@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)