

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS)



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Removing an individual's liberty is a serious matter. As a practitioner in health and social care, you need to know what constitutes deprivation of liberty, what to do and who is responsible for making decisions.

This online training course on the DOLS is designed for people working in the field of mental health for an NHS trust or a care provider in either the public or private sector (although it is an excellent learning experience for anyone with an interest in mental health). Its purpose is to inform service users and professionals about safeguards which need to be adhered to by those working in the health and social care sector.

All candidates will receive a certificate upon completion.

Topics include:

- The safeguards and why they were introduced
- Who is covered by the safeguards
- Applying the Code of Practice
- What constitutes lawful and unlawful deprivation of liberty
- Managing Authorities and supervisory bodies
- Processes for Assessment and Authorisation
- The role of the court of protection
- Key points for care homes and hospitals
- What happens when someone is unlawfully deprived of their liberty

The course illustrates the essential principles and processes contained in the Code of Practice and makes them engaging and accessible. It covers the 'must know' aspects of the code and gives learners the opportunity to reflect on their own experiences and apply the principles to their own situation. Case studies are included, highlighting issues in a range of settings which affect workers faced with considerations of deprivation of liberty.

Please contact us on 0114 281 3746 for more information



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Those most likely to be affected by the DOLS include practitioners in all settings who care for and work with people who at one time or another lack the capacity to make decisions, such as those with dementia and other mental health problems.

- The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards apply to people in England and Wales who have a mental disorder and lack capacity to consent to the arrangements made for their care or treatment. They are set out in a Code of Practice.
- The European Convention on Human Rights Article 5(1) states that in order to deprive someone of their liberty, a procedure prescribed by law must be followed.
- A managing authority (NHS Trust, private hospital, care home, Mental Health Trust etc) must:
 - a) Conduct an assessment, and
 - b) Request authorisation from a supervisory body before any steps are taken to deprive someone of their liberty.
- A supervisory body (PCT, local authority, Welsh Minister or Area Health Board) must authorise such deprivation of liberty.
- There are two types of authorisation: standard and urgent.
- Anybody deprived of their liberty in accordance with the safeguards described in the Code of Practice is entitled to the right of speedy access to a court that can review the lawfulness of their deprivation of liberty.
- The deprivation of liberty safeguards make it clear that a person may only be deprived of their liberty:
 - In their own best interests to protect them from harm,
 - If it is a proportionate response to the likelihood and seriousness of the harm, and
 - If there is no less restrictive alternative.
- Under no circumstances must deprivation of liberty be used as a form of punishment, or for the convenience of professionals, carers or anyone else.
- If anyone believes that a person is being deprived of their liberty without authorisation, they should raise this with the relevant authorities (PCT, Local Authority or the Court of Protection).

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