surrey safeguarding ADULTS BOARD

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Keeping you safe from abuse

DoLS

This booklet has information about Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

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You can find Easy Read documents on keeping safe from abuse on the Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board website.
www.surreysab.org.uk/resources/

You can read this booklet alone or with someone to support you.

Acknowledgements

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What is DoLS?

DoLS stands for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards.

DoLS comes from the law. It protects your rights.

Sometimes hospitals or care homes take away people's freedom to keep them safe from harm.

For example, staff will watch you and not let you leave without someone to support you.

DoLS is the process to make sure this happens properly.

What is DoLS?

DoLS are for anyone over the age of 18.

When people can't make decisions about their care and where they want to live, someone else will have to do this for them. This is called 'not having capacity'.

DoLS are only for people who can't make these decisions for themselves

DoLS are to make sure that taking someone's freedom is in the **best interests** of the person.

Best interests means that the decision will be what is best for you and not anyone else.

How do DoLS work?

Care homes and hospitals must ask Surrey County Council for their agreement if they are going to take away your freedom.

Two assessors will need to visit and meet with you to check if the care service or hospital is the right place for providing you with the care you need.

They will also check that care arrangements there are right for you.

One will be the Best Interests Assessor (BIA).

The other will be the Mental Health Assessor who is a specially trained doctor.

They will both do some assessments. The assessments must all agree before the DoLS can be authorised.

DoLS assessment

The BIA will speak to you to hear what you think.

The BIA will check if you can make your own decisions about your safety.

The BIA will speak to your family and friends to see what they think.

If you don't have family or friends, the BIA will get a specially trained advocate to help you.
This is an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA).

DoLS assessment

The BIA will speak to the hospital or care home to find out why your freedom needs to be taken away.

They will check your care plan to see if any restrictions are needed and are in your best interest.

Examples of restrictions include:

things being taken away from you

locked doors

medication

1 to 1 support

bed rails

lap belts

DoLS assessment

The BIA will write up the DoLS assessment that will say what should happen next.

The BIA may ask for things to be done to make sure you are happier in the hospital or care home.

If the DoLS authorisation is agreed, you will be supported to understand your rights.

You can have help from an Independent Mental Capacity Act Advocate (IMCA).

If you have no family or friends who can help, a paid Relevant Person's Representative (RPR) can be asked to help you.

What happens next?

You can ask Surrey County Council to look at a DoLS decision at any time to make sure it is still alright (review).

If you do not agree with the DoLS decision you can ask the Court of Protection to look at it again (appeal).

You should expect a DoLS assessment every year to check everything is OK.

Contact Surrey's DoLS Team:

Phone: 01483 517 644

Email: dolsteam@surreycc.gov.uk

Contact us, other formats and language

To contact us or if you would like this information in an alternative format or language:

Telephone: 0300 200 1005

Text (SMS): 07527 182 861 (for deaf or hard of hearing community)

Textphone (via Relay UK): 18001 0300 200 1005

British Sign Language: www.surreycc.gov.uk/bsl

Email: asc.infoandadvice@surreycc.gov.uk