

Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

This course gives learners the knowledge and confidence to apply the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards in everyday practice. You will explore the purpose of the Act and its Code of Practice, learning how they protect people's safety, rights, and dignity.

The course explains how the MCA supports decision-making and introduces the Five Statutory Principles that guide best practice. You will develop practical skills in completing MCA forms, taking part in best interest meetings, and recognising the role of Lasting Power of Attorney and Advance Decisions. The course also covers the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). You will learn the meaning of the 'acid test', the DoLS process, and how to complete key forms.

Finally, you will understand the duties of a Managing Authority once a DoLS authorisation has been granted.

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Course Content

Module 1: Introduction to the Mental Capacity Act (MCA)

- Learn the purpose of the MCA and why it is essential in supporting people who may lack capacity.
- Explore how the Act and the Code of Practice protect safety, promote dignity, and safeguard human rights.

Module 2: The Five Statutory Principles

- Understand each principle and how they guide everyday decision-making.
- Apply these principles in practice to support independence and choice.

Module 3: Decision-Making and Best Interests

- Discover how the MCA helps staff make safe and fair decisions.
- Gain skills in completing MCA forms, recording decisions, and contributing to best interest meetings.

Module 4: Legal Tools – LPA and Advance Decisions

- Examine the role of Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) and the importance of Advance Decisions.
- Learn how these tools empower individuals to have a say in their future care and support.

Module 5: Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

- Understand why DoLS exist and who they protect.
- Explore the 'acid test', the DoLS process, and how to complete the key forms.

Course Content

Module 6: Responsibilities of Managing Authorities

- Learn what happens once a DoLS authorisation is granted.
- Understand the responsibilities of care providers and how to ensure compliance.

Module 7: Practical Application and Case Studies

- Work through real-life scenarios to apply your knowledge.
- Practise form completion, decision recording, and ethical reflection.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the importance of having strict safer recruitment practices in place to safeguard vulnerable adults.
- Create an effective applicant information pack, including a job description and safeguarding statement.
- Understand the principles behind shortlisting candidates.
- Demonstrate how to request a reference
- Understand the principles of interviewing applicants

Learning Outcomes

- Understand what is involved in the pre-appointment checks, including DBS checks and key changes to criminal record disclosure that impacts vetting and information gathering process
- Understand the importance of a thorough staff induction process
- understand how to risk assess applicants / existing staff with criminal records or subject to serious allegations in the context of safe recruitment and safeguarding
- Take up effective references and conduct details to fulfil the legal requirements and safeguarding responsibilities
- Explain what can and can't be shared in a reference and conduct information to DBS and/or other organisations.