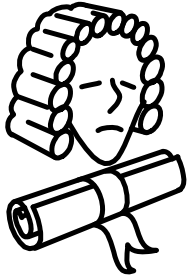


The Mental Capacity Act

What I need to know.....



- The Mental Capacity Act is a new law.
- It is a law about making decisions.
- It is about making decisions now.
- It is about planning for the future.

Why do I need to know about this Act?



- It says how people will help me to make a decision.
- It says how other people must work out if I can make my own decision or not.
- It says what other people will do if I can't make my own decisions.

What help must I have?



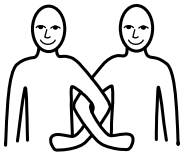
- I must be given all the help and support I need to make a decision.
- If I need signs and symbols, video or tape recordings to help me make a decision, the person must help me to make use of them.
- I can make what others might think is an unwise decision.
- Many people may make unwise decisions but this alone does not mean that I lack capacity.

Who decides if someone has capacity?



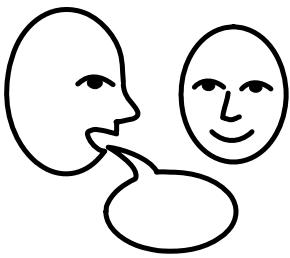
- Anyone – a health or care worker, relative or friend might need to decide if I have capacity or not.

What happens if I cannot make the decision for myself?



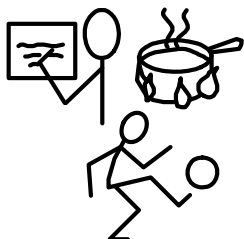
- If I cannot make my own decision about something, the other person must decide what to do.
- The other person must do things in my best interests.
- This is doing what is best for me.

When should my family and friends be consulted?



- If I am unable to make a decision for myself.
- The person must listen to what I have to say and give me time to make my decision.
- They must talk to people who know me well.
- They must involve me as much as possible.
- The person who makes the decision must think about my known wishes and feelings.
- I may want to talk to my family about my wishes and feelings or write them down.

Planning ahead



- I can make choices now about medical treatment that I do not want to have in the future.
- I can tell people now about care that I would like to have in the future.
- If I am unable to tell people about my choices in the future they will know what my wishes are.