



Department for
Constitutional Affairs
Justice, rights and democracy

Mental Capacity Implementation Programme

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Mental Capacity Act 2005 - introduction timetable

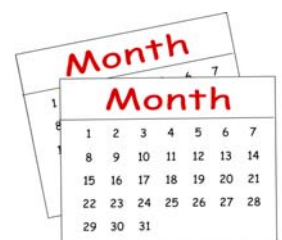
The Mental Capacity Act is a new law that will help adults when they lose mental capacity. It will make clear who can take decisions, in which situations and how they should go about doing this.



The Mental Capacity Implementation Programme is in charge of making sure the Act is ready for next year.



The Government Minister announced on 18 December the timetable for when the Act will be ready.



From April 2007 the following parts of the Act will be ready:

- In England the Department of Health will introduce the Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA's) on 1 April 2007.
- In Wales the Government Minister will soon say when Independent Mental Capacity Advocate service (IMCAs) will start

Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA's) will support and help people who lack capacity and have no one else to speak for them. They will be involved in decisions about serious medical treatment and decisions about changes to where the person lives.

- The Code of Practice for the Mental Capacity Act will be ready in April 2007.

The Code will tell people how to make sure they are following the Mental Capacity Act.

- The new criminal offence of ill treatment or neglect of a person who lacks capacity will be introduced in England and Wales.

This will mean that it will be against the law to badly treat or ignore someone who lacks capacity that you care for or look after.

April 2007						
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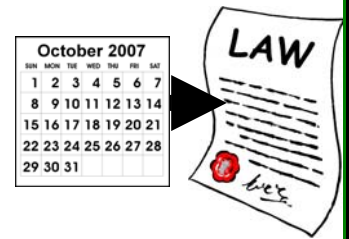


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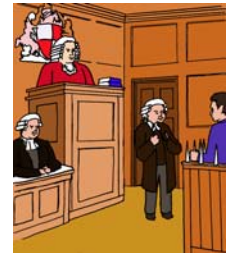


From October 2007:

- The rest of the Act including the Court of Protection and the Office of the Public Guardian will start from October 2007.



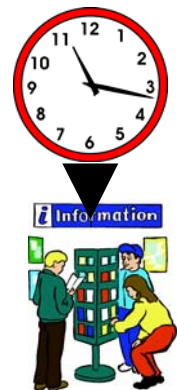
The timetable will allow more time to get the new Court of Protection ready.



The new timetable will mean that there will be more time to tell people about the Act.



It will also mean that there will be more time for people to train and prepare for the Act



Thank you for all the hard work you have done on the Act.



Steve Verdon

Steve Verdon

Change Programme Manager