

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Authorisation Process

From 1st April 2009, hospitals and care homes must follow the DoLS Code of Practice. New safeguards require them to seek authorisation if they need to restrict a person's freedom so severely in order to protect them, that it might be considered a 'deprivation of their liberty'.

Identify potential DoL

Use the DoL Code of Practice to identify anyone at risk of being deprived of their liberty.

Minimise any restrictions

Review the person's care plans to ensure you are using the 'least restrictions' possible in order to avoid deprivation of liberty, yet keep them safe.

Check DoL criteria

Use the DoL Code of Practice and check if you reasonably believe that the DoL safeguards could apply. In particular that the person:

- Lacks capacity to decide for themselves.
- Needs to be deprived of their liberty in their best interests.
- Is over 18 years of age.
- Has not made a valid advanced decision to refuse treatment which applies to this situation.

Consider an urgent authorisation

If you need to deprive someone of their liberty immediately, in order to keep them safe, you must issue an **urgent authorisation** and follow the DoL Forms and Record Keeping Guide for Managing Authorities (DH).

- Complete Form 1.
- Fax form immediately and post original to the Single Point of Access: 01724 298194
- Give copies to the person and any IMCA acting for them.
- You must also apply for a standard authorisation.

If you need help and support with any part of the DoLS process, please contact the:

**DoLS
Co-ordinator**
Tel 01724 298191
(Mon –Fri 9.30 – 4.00)

Further information is available at our website

<http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/NorthLincs>

Apply for a Standard Authorisation

If you believe that you may need to deprive someone of their liberty within the next 28 days, you must apply for a standard authorisation.

- Complete Form 4.

- Fax form immediately and post original** to the DoLS Co-ordinator.

- The DoLS Co-ordinator will arrange for the assessments and you will be informed of the decision.

Completed forms should be sent to the DoLS Co-ordinator, External Provision Team, Brumby Resource Centre, East Common Lane, Scunthorpe, DN15 1QQ

A wide range of information and guidance from the Department of Health can be found at: