



Mental Capacity Act 2005

2005 CHAPTER 9

PART 1

PERSONS WHO LACK CAPACITY

Preliminary

6 Section 5 acts: limitations

- (1) If D does an act that is intended to restrain P, it is not an act to which section 5 applies unless two further conditions are satisfied.
- (2) The first condition is that D reasonably believes that it is necessary to do the act in order to prevent harm to P.
- (3) The second is that the act is a proportionate response to—
 - (a) the likelihood of P's suffering harm, and
 - (b) the seriousness of that harm.
- (4) For the purposes of this section D restrains P if he—
 - (a) uses, or threatens to use, force to secure the doing of an act which P resists, or
 - (b) restricts P's liberty of movement, whether or not P resists.
- (5) ^{F1}
- (6) Section 5 does not authorise a person to do an act which conflicts with a decision made, within the scope of his authority and in accordance with this Part, by—
 - (a) a donee of a lasting power of attorney granted by P, or
 - (b) a deputy appointed for P by the court.
- (7) But nothing in subsection (6) stops a person—
 - (a) providing life-sustaining treatment, or
 - (b) doing any act which he reasonably believes to be necessary to prevent a serious deterioration in P's condition,

Changes to legislation: Mental Capacity Act 2005, Section 6 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

while a decision as respects any relevant issue is sought from the court.

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 6(5) repealed (1.4.2009) by [Mental Health Act 2007 \(c. 12\)](#), ss. 50(4)(a), 55, 56, [Sch. 11 Pt. 10](#); S.I. 2009/139, [art. 2\(b\)\(f\)](#) (with [art. 3](#))

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 58(4)(ca) inserted by [2023 c. 42 Sch. para. 10](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 4A inserted by [2023 c. 42 Sch. para. 3](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 10A and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 42 Sch. para. 6](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 13A inserted by [2023 c. 42 Sch. para. 7\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 16(1A) inserted by [2023 c. 42 Sch. para. 8\(b\)](#)