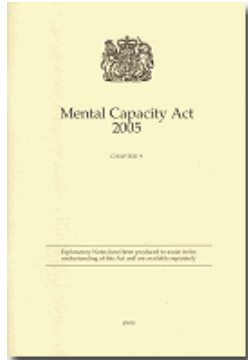




The Mental Capacity Act

a law about deciding things



- this leaflet is about a law
- the law is called the Mental Capacity Act

mental means to do with the **mind** and **thinking**
capacity means **being able to do something**
act is the same as **law**



the law is about helping people decide what they want



the law says that if you can decide things yourself you 'have capacity'



the law says that if you cannot decide things you 'lack capacity'



the law says

- you are allowed to decide things yourself unless someone shows that you are not able to



- you can decide to do things even if other people don't agree with you



- people must help you try to decide things yourself



- you can choose who decides things for you if you can't decide yourself



- you can get help from an advocate – a person who is on your side and helps you say what you want



- people must help you stay as independent as possible
-



You might be able to decide some things



but not others



You might be able to decide

- what you want to eat



- what you want to wear



- what you want to buy



- where you want to live



- who you want to be your friends



Or you might not be able to decide these things



You might be able to decide things sometimes, and sometimes not



If you cannot decide things yourself, someone else must decide for you



This might be your family or a friend



If you have no family or friends to decide for you



- the law says someone must decide things for you
- this person is called an advocate



- they will decide what you would want if you could decide yourself



They must make the best decision for you