

# Adult Social Care

Guide to Deprivation of Liberty Orders  
(known as 'Community DoL')



Easy read version



Coventry City Council

**ONE**  
**COVENTRY**

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Sometimes people need treatment or care from doctors, nurses or care workers. This care can be given in hospitals, care homes, supported living or in people's own homes.



This care should keep people safe but not restrict their freedom if this is not needed.



The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is a law about what to do when people cannot make some decisions for themselves. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) are part of this law.



The courts say this is for residents of care homes and hospitals, and also people cared for in the community. This could be supported living or living in their own homes.



This leaflet explains the way to get approval for a Community DoL.

## What is a Deprivation of Liberty?



It is not always easy to see when a deprivation of liberty is used. But there are some key parts, including:

- The person must lack the mental capacity to independently decide where to live for their care and treatment.
- The person is not free to leave.
- The person must need ‘continuous supervision and control’. This means they need someone with them to care and support them.



It is important to remember that just because the words ‘Deprivation of Liberty’ are used, it does not mean that someone is doing something wrong. It may be needed to keep the person safe.

## How are they agreed?



When the local authority finds out that someone living in the community might have limits on their freedom, they will ask for a ‘Deprivation of Liberty’ order from the Court of Protection.

The Court of Protection makes decisions about money matters, health, and care and support, for people who can’t do this for themselves.

Usually, the judge can make a decision based on paper evidence, so no-one needs to go to court.

## How is an application made?



A worker from Coventry City Council will visit the person in their home to check the care arrangements.

They will make sure that the restrictions keep the person safe, but that they also limit their freedom as little as possible.



The judge will need a lot of detail about the person's care and support plan. They will also want to know what the person, and their friends and family think.

## What happens next?



The court will choose someone to speak up for the person. If you are a family member or close friend you might be asked to do this.

The Representative will be asked to write a letter for the court. They can have help with this from the named worker.



The Representative will need to visit the person often, to ask them what their views and wishes are, and to check they are being cared for. They should also help them to understand what the court has decided.



Once the order is made it will usually last for one year. Then it will be checked and renewed again if it is still needed.



The idea of the Court of Protection being involved may make you anxious - but remember that it is very important to make sure that the person who needs care and support is properly protected.



There is a separate leaflet with more detail about the role of the Representative.

## Contact Adult Social Care Direct

Call **024 7683 3003**

or email [ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk)

or visit [coventry.gov.uk/health-social-care](http://coventry.gov.uk/health-social-care)

Speech impairment, deaf or hard of hearing?

You can call using Next Generation Text

(also known as Text Relay and TypeTalk):

**18001 024 7683 3003**

If you require this information in another language or format,

please email [ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk)

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