

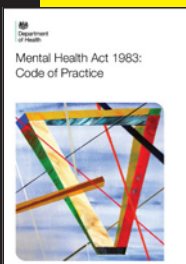


Department  
of Health

An easy read fact sheet

# Code of Practice plain English glossary

Words in the Mental  
Health Act Code of  
Practice and what they  
mean in plain English.



## Know your rights

The Mental Health Act  
Code of Practice

# Code of Practice glossary

**An A-Z of words used in the Mental Health Act Code of Practice and what they mean in plain English.**

- **Absent without leave** leaving a ward for any amount of time without permission from the hospital.
- **Advance Statement** An advance statement lets staff know how you want to be treated if you are unable to make decision for yourself.
- **Attorney** An attorney is someone that you appoint to make decisions on your behalf. They can make decisions about your welfare, money and housing.



- **Capacity** Capacity, also called Mental Capacity means being able to make a decision at the time it is needed.
- **Confidentiality** Confidentiality means keeping your information private. Sometimes your information will need to be shared with other people (such as doctors or Tribunals) but you should be asked to give your permission.
- **Consent** Consent means giving your permission. This could mean giving your permission to sharing information or having treatment.
- **Court of protection** The Court of Protection was set up as part of the Mental Capacity Act. It protects the rights of people who do not have Mental Capacity.
- **Deputy** A Deputy is someone appointed by the Court of Protection to make decisions for someone who lacks mental capacity.
- **Detention** Detention means being held in a hospital for assessment or treatment. This is sometimes called being sectioned.





- **Discharge from hospital** Being discharged means you can leave the hospital.
- **Guardianship** A guardian can be appointed to help and supervise people in the community. A guardian could be an organisation (like a local authority) or a person, approved by the local authority.
- **Hospital managers** Hospital Managers are the non-executive directors of the hospital where you are detained. They can also make decision about when to discharge people from the hospital.
- **Independent Mental Health Advocacy** – is being supported by a person that is called an Advocate to have your voice heard and understand your rights.
- **Leave of Absence** this means having permission to leave the ward for a period of time. You might be able to go on your own, with a friend or a member of staff.



- **Mental Disorder** is any disorder or disability of the mind. It includes personality disorders, autistic spectrum disorders and learning disabilities.
- **Nearest Relative** A nearest relative is a term used in the Mental Health Act. It gives someone from your family rights and responsibilities if you are detained under the Act, on a community treatment order or a guardianship.
- **Responsible Clinician** The Responsible Clinician is someone in charge of your overall care and treatment while you are in hospital.
- **Restraint** Restraint means being physically held by members of staff
- **Seclusion** Seclusion is a room that is designed for Seclusion, it a safe place people can be held until they are calm.
- **Treatment** Treatment means how you will be helped to get better. Treatment could include the use of medication, talking therapies or getting involved in activities.
- **Tribunal** A tribunal is an independent panel of people who can make a decision whether you should remain in hospital or not. You or your solicitor can apply to the Tribunal for a hearing.





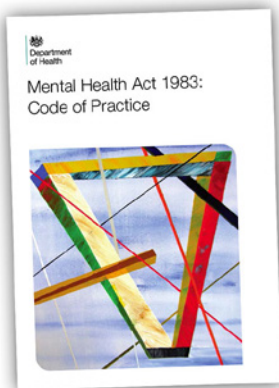


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# The Mental Health Act Code of Practice

**Download the code:**

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/  
attachment\\_data/file/396918/Code\\_of\\_Practice.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396918/Code_of_Practice.pdf)



**Download the easy read fact sheets:**

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