

*Status: This version of this provision is prospective.*

**Changes to legislation:** *Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, Section 139 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 April 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*



## 2016 CHAPTER 18

### PART 9

#### POWER OF POLICE TO REMOVE PERSON TO PLACE OF SAFETY

*Power of police to remove person from public place to place of safety*

PROSPECTIVE

##### **Power of police to remove person from public place to place of safety**

**139.—(1)** If—

- (a) a constable finds in a public place a person who appears to the constable to be in immediate need of care or control, and
- (b) the constable reasonably believes that the conditions in subsection (2) are met,

the constable may remove that person to a place of safety.

(2) Those conditions are that—

- (a) failure to remove the person from the public place would create a risk of serious physical or psychological harm to the person or of serious physical harm to other persons;
- (b) removing the person to a place of safety is a proportionate response to the likelihood and seriousness of the harm concerned;
- (c) because of an impairment of or disturbance in the functioning of the mind or brain (temporary or permanent, and however caused), the person is

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unable to make a decision for himself or herself as to whether he or she should be taken to a place of safety; and

(d) removing the person to the place of safety would be in the person's best interests.

(3) The powers conferred by this Part are subject to section 157 (principles).

(4) “Place of safety” and “public place” are defined for the purposes of this Part by section 160.

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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. 285(2)(a)-(c) substituted for s. 285(2)(a)(b) by [2022 c. 18 \(N.I.\) Sch. 3 para. 77\(b\)](#)