



2016 CHAPTER 18

PART 2

LACK OF CAPACITY: PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY, AND SAFEGUARDS

CHAPTER 9

DEFINITIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PART 2

Meaning of “serious intervention”

“Serious intervention”

63.—(1) In this Part “serious intervention” means an intervention in connection with the care, treatment or personal welfare of P which (or any part of which)—

- (a) consists of or involves major surgery;
- (b) causes P serious pain, serious distress, or serious side-effects;
- (c) affects seriously the options that will be available to P in the future, or has a serious impact on P's day-to-day life; or
- (d) in any other way has serious consequences for P, whether physical or non-physical.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), and to avoid any doubt, each of the following is a serious intervention for the purposes of this Part—

- (a) any deprivation of liberty;

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- (b) the imposition of a requirement mentioned in section 28(1)(a) (requirements to attend at particular times or intervals for certain treatment);
- (c) the imposition of a community residence requirement (see section 31).
- (3) Regulations may provide that a prescribed intervention (except one mentioned in subsection (2))—
 - (a) is to be regarded as an intervention falling within a particular paragraph of subsection (1); or
 - (b) is not to be regarded as such an intervention.
- (4) If—
 - (a) the act mentioned in section 9(1) is, or is part of, an intervention which turns out to be a serious intervention, but
 - (b) at the time the act is done D reasonably believes that the risk that the intervention will turn out to be a serious intervention is negligible,
 that act is to be treated for the purposes of this Part as if the intervention were not a serious intervention.

Commencement Information

- II** [S. 63\(2\)\(a\)](#) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2019/163](#), [art. 2\(4\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 4](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (as amended by [S.R. 2019/190](#), [art. 2](#))

Acts that are “part of” serious interventions

64.—(1) This section applies where, for any purpose of this Part, a question arises whether a particular act is part of an intervention which is a serious intervention.

(2) Where an act is done which—

- (a) is a use of force or a threat to use force, and
- (b) is done with the intention of securing the doing of another act in connection with the care, treatment or personal welfare of a person which that person resists,

the act mentioned in paragraph (a) is to be taken to be part of the same intervention as the act mentioned in paragraph (b).

(3) Nothing in this section limits the acts that are to be regarded as part of a particular intervention.

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Commencement Information

- I2** S. 64 in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes by S.R. 2019/163, art. 2(4), Sch. Pt. 4 (with art. 3) (as amended by S.R. 2019/190, art. 2)

Meaning of “emergency”

Meaning of “emergency” in relation to safeguard provisions

65.—(1) This section applies in relation to sections 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 24, 26, 28 and 35 (provisions which contain additional safeguards, and which require a determination of whether the situation is an “emergency”).

(2) For the purposes of any one of those sections, the situation is an “emergency” if at the relevant time—

- (a) D knows that the safeguard in that section is not met, but reasonably believes that to delay until that safeguard is met would create an unacceptable risk of harm to P; or
- (b) D does not know whether that safeguard is met, but reasonably believes that to delay even until it is established whether it is met would create an unacceptable risk of harm to P.

(3) But the situation is not an “emergency” by virtue of falling within subsection (2) if the fact that the safeguard in question is not met by the relevant time is to any extent due to an unreasonable failure by D to take a step that it would have been practicable to take for the purposes of ensuring that the safeguard is met by the relevant time.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) are to be read in accordance with section 66.

(5) For the purposes of any section mentioned in subsection (1), the situation is also an “emergency” if, at the time when the act mentioned in that section is done, D—

- (a) does not know of the effect of that section;
- (b) is not a person with expertise such that he or she could reasonably be expected to know of its effect; and
- (c) reasonably believes that it is necessary to do the act without delay to prevent harm to P.

Commencement Information

- I3** S. 65(1) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes (but omitting "16 to 20" and "28 and 35") by S.R. 2019/163, art. 2(4), Sch. Pt. 4 (with art. 3) (as amended by S.R. 2019/190, art. 2)

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- 14** S. 65(2)-(5) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2019/163](#), [art. 2\(4\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 4](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (as amended by [S.R. 2019/190](#), [art. 2](#))

Section 65: definitions etc

66.—(1) For the purposes of section 65(2) and (3) and this section—

- (a) the safeguard in section 13 is met when a formal capacity assessment has been carried out and a statement of incapacity made;
- (b) the safeguard in section 15 is met when a nominated person is in place for P;
- (c) the safeguard in section 16 or 17 is met when a second opinion is obtained;
- (d) the safeguard in section 19, 20, 24, 26 or 28 is met where the provision of treatment, detention or requirement mentioned in that section is authorised;
- (e) the safeguard in section 35 is met when—
 - (i) an independent mental capacity advocate is instructed under section 91 to represent and provide support to P in the determination of what would be in P's best interests; or
 - (ii) P has made (and not revoked) a declaration under section 90 or 93 in relation to the matter.

(2) In section 65(2) and (3) and this section “the relevant time” means—

- (a) in relation to section 15 or 35, the time when D determines that the act mentioned in that section would be in P's best interests;
- (b) in relation to any other section mentioned in section 65(1), the time when the act mentioned in that section is done.

(3) For the purposes of section 65(2), the risk of harm to P created by delaying until a particular safeguard is met, or until it is established whether it is met, is an “unacceptable” risk if—

- (a) the seriousness of the harm that could be caused to P by such delay, and
- (b) the likelihood of the harm,

are such as to outweigh the risk of harm to P of not complying with the safeguard.

(4) In determining for the purposes of section 65(2) and this section when a safeguard would be met, or when it would be established whether a safeguard is met, it must be assumed that any necessary steps would be taken as soon as practicable.

(5) For the purposes of section 65(3), a failure by D at any time (“the time in question”) to take a practicable step for the purposes of ensuring that the safeguard is met by the relevant time is unreasonable unless, at the time in question—

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- (a) he or she reasonably believes that (ignoring any provision of this Act relating to emergency situations) the matter is not one to which the safeguard will apply; or
- (b) he or she reasonably believes that that step does not have to be taken immediately in order for the safeguard to be met in time, and not taking that step immediately is reasonable in the circumstances.

(6) Expressions used in a paragraph of subsection (1) and in the section mentioned in that paragraph have the same meaning in that paragraph as in that section.

Commencement Information

- I5** S. 66(1)(a)(b) (2)-(6) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2019/163](#), [art. 2\(4\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 4](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (as amended by [S.R. 2019/190](#), [art. 2](#))
- I6** S. 66(1)(d) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes (but omitting “19, 20” and “28”) by [S.R. 2019/163](#), [art. 2\(4\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 4](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (as amended by [S.R. 2019/190](#), [art. 2](#))

Failure by persons other than D to take steps to ensure safeguard met

67.—(1) This section has effect in relation to section 65(2) in a case where D is an employee of a person (“E”).

(2) For the purposes of determining whether E is liable in relation to an act done in a situation falling within section 65(2), any reference in section 65(3) or 66(5) to “D” includes any other employee of E.

(3) Any person for whose acts another person may be vicariously liable is to be treated for the purposes of this section as an employee of that other person.

Commencement Information

- I7** [S. 67](#) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2019/163](#), [art. 2\(4\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 4](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (as amended by [S.R. 2019/190](#), [art. 2](#))

Other definitions for purposes of Part 2

Interpretation of Part 2: general

68.—(1) For the purposes of this Part—

“community residence requirement” has the meaning given by section 31;

“emergency”—

- (a) in sections 54 to 56, has the meaning given by section 56;
- (b) otherwise, has the meaning given by section 65;

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“reasonable objection”: an act is done “despite” a reasonable objection from a person's nominated person if the nominated person—

- (a) has reasonably objected to the proposal to do the act; and
- (b) has not, by the time the act is done, withdrawn that objection (by any means);

“requirement”: a requirement for a person (“P”) to do a thing is imposed on P by a person if that person tells P (by any means and in any words) that if P does not do that thing, further action will or may be taken in respect of P;

“resisted by”: an act is resisted by a person if the doing of the act is secured by the use of force or a threat to use force;

“serious intervention” is to be read in accordance with section 63;

“subject to an additional measure” has the meaning given by section 23;

“treatment with serious consequences” has the meaning given by section 21;

treatment that “might be” treatment with serious consequences: references to such treatment are to treatment where the risk of the treatment turning out to be treatment with serious consequences is more than negligible.

(2) See also sections 304 to 306 (definitions for purposes of Act).

Commencement Information

I8 [S. 68](#) in operation at 2.12.2019 for specified purposes by [S.R. 2019/163](#), [art. 2\(4\)](#), [Sch. Pt. 4](#) (with [art. 3](#)) (as amended by [S.R. 2019/190](#), [art. 2](#))

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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\(b\)](#)