

Status: This version of this provision is prospective.

Changes to legislation: *Mental Capacity Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, Section 18 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 March 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 2

LACK OF CAPACITY: PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY, AND SAFEGUARDS

CHAPTER 3

ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARD: SECOND OPINION

PROSPECTIVE

Second opinion: relevant certificates

18.—(1) In this Chapter “relevant certificate” means a statement in writing which—

- (a) is made by an appropriate medical practitioner; and
- (b) certifies that, in that practitioner's opinion, it is in P's best interests to have the treatment.

(2) An appropriate medical practitioner may, for the purposes of exercising any function under subsection (1), at any reasonable time—

- (a) visit P and examine him or her in private;
- (b) require the production of and examine any health records relating to P that are relevant.

(3) A medical practitioner may give a relevant certificate only if the medical practitioner has—

- (a) examined P;

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- (b) examined any health records relating to P that have been produced under subsection (2)(b) and appear to the practitioner to be relevant (having taken reasonable steps to require the production of relevant health records); and
 - (c) consulted such person or persons as appear to the practitioner to be principally concerned with treating P (generally).
- (4) A medical practitioner who gives a relevant certificate must immediately send a copy of it to RQIA.
- (5) For the purposes of this section “an appropriate medical practitioner” means a medical practitioner who—
- (a) is unconnected with P (see section 304);
 - (b) is approved for the purposes of this section by RQIA; and
 - (c) has been asked by RQIA, following a relevant request, to provide an opinion on whether it would be in P's best interests to have the treatment.
- (6) Where RQIA receives a relevant request and proposes to ask a medical practitioner to provide an opinion on whether it would be in P's best interests to have the treatment, it must (when considering who to ask) have regard to the desirability of asking a medical practitioner who is independent of any medical practitioner concerned with the provision to P of the treatment.
- (7) In this section a “relevant request” means a request, made by a person for the purposes of section 16 or 17, for RQIA to arrange for a medical practitioner to provide such an opinion.

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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\(b\)](#)