



# Mental Capacity Act 2005

## 2005 CHAPTER 9

### PART 1

#### PERSONS WHO LACK CAPACITY

##### *Preliminary*

### **3 Inability to make decisions**

- (1) For the purposes of section 2, a person is unable to make a decision for himself if he is unable—
  - (a) to understand the information relevant to the decision,
  - (b) to retain that information,
  - (c) to use or weigh that information as part of the process of making the decision, or
  - (d) to communicate his decision (whether by talking, using sign language or any other means).
- (2) A person is not to be regarded as unable to understand the information relevant to a decision if he is able to understand an explanation of it given to him in a way that is appropriate to his circumstances (using simple language, visual aids or any other means).
- (3) The fact that a person is able to retain the information relevant to a decision for a short period only does not prevent him from being regarded as able to make the decision.
- (4) The information relevant to a decision includes information about the reasonably foreseeable consequences of—
  - (a) deciding one way or another, or
  - (b) failing to make the decision.

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*Status: Point in time view as at 18/06/2012. This version of this provision has been superseded.*

**Changes to legislation:** *Mental Capacity Act 2005, Section 3 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 18 May 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)*

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#### **Commencement Information**

- II** S. 3 wholly in force at 1.10.2007; s. 3 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 68(1)-(3); s. 3 in force for certain purposes at 1.4.2007 by S.I. 2007/563, arts. 1(2)(3), **2(2)(c)(3)** and s. 3 in force otherwise at 1.10.2007 by S.I. 2007/1897, **art. 2(2)(c)**

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