

Capacity and Consent

Easy Read Information for people with a learning disability



Consent is deciding if you want to do something or allow something to happen.



You can say yes.



You can say no.



It is up to you.



Capacity is being able to make a decision.



Decisions are all different
Some are easy, like choosing what to wear.



Some are hard, like choosing where you want to live.



Some are really difficult, like choosing whether to have surgery for a health problem.



Most people can make some decisions, for example what to have for lunch.



Sometimes people cannot make decisions, especially if they are hard decisions. They do not have capacity.



If someone cannot make a decision because they do not have capacity, someone else needs to make the decision.



Sometimes 1 person like a dentist or a doctor will think about what is best for the person and then make a decision.



Sometimes there will be a meeting. At the meeting a group of people will talk about what is best for the person and then decide what should happen. This is called a best interest decision.



Staff, who work with people who have a learning disability, support people to make as many decisions for themselves as possible.