

Appendix 5 Mental capacity in adults

Whether a person has mental capacity is a matter of specialist assessment by social and mental health services. However, it may be useful to know something about it.

Mental capacity is the ability to make a particular decision. An adult may be at risk if they are unable to make a decision due to illness, disability, poor mental health, dementia, a learning disability or something else that may impair their judgement.

A person may be deemed to be 'without capacity' if they cannot:

- understand the decision
- retain the information
- weigh up the information
- communicate their decision

About matters such as

- finance
- social care
- medical treatment