



Welcome to the May 2021 Mental Capacity Report. Highlights this month include:

(1) In the Health, Welfare and Deprivation of Liberty Report: a judgment looking beyond the diagnosis, paying for sex and the Court of Protection, navigating autism and indoctrination and relevant updates about visiting guidance in relation to care homes;

(2) In the Property and Affairs Report: a staunch judicial defence of *Banks v Goodfellow*, Child Trust Funds and capacity, and updates from the OPG;

(3) In the Practice and Procedure Report: discharging a party without notice, the white leopard of litigation capacity and CoP statistics;

(4) In the Wider Context Report: DNACPR decisions during COVID-19, litigation capacity in the civil context, and the interaction between capacity and the MHA 1983 in two different contexts;

(5) In the Scotland Report: the new Mental Welfare Commission practice guidance on capacity, rights, and sexual relationships. Our Scottish team has been too busy making law in different countries to write more this month, but will bring updates next month about legislative developments on the cards as the new Scottish administration finds its feet.

You can find our past issues, our case summaries, and more on our dedicated sub-site [here](#), where you can also find updated versions of both our capacity and best interests guides. We have taken a deliberate decision not to cover all the host of COVID-19 related matters that might have a tangential impact upon mental capacity in the Report. Chambers has created a dedicated COVID-19 page with resources, seminars, and more, [here](#); Alex maintains a resources page for MCA and COVID-19 [here](#), and Neil a page [here](#).

### Editors

Alex Ruck Keene  
Victoria Butler-Cole QC  
Neil Allen  
Annabel Lee  
Nicola Kohn  
Katie Scott  
Katherine Barnes  
Simon Edwards (P&A)

### Scottish Contributors

Adrian Ward  
Jill Stavert

The picture at the top, "Colourful," is by Geoffrey Files, a young man with autism. We are very grateful to him and his family for permission to use his artwork.

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### Consenting Adults - capacity, rights and sexual relationships

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland has published *Consenting Adults - capacity, rights and sexual relationships*, an updated version of its 2012 good practice guide on capacity and sexual relationships with the assistance of Deirdre Hanlon and Karen Kirk, founders and partners of the solicitors firm Kirk Hanlon. The update is comprehensive and this time also includes content on social media and internet use.

It acknowledges that people with mental illness, dementia, learning disability or related conditions have the same human rights as anyone else to sexual expression, sexual relationships marriage and children but that where they lack capacity to make informed decisions this may make them vulnerable and at greater risk of abuse, exploitation or other serious consequences. The guidance therefore seeks to navigate the complicated ethical and legal issues associated with this when balancing rights and risks with a view to respecting the person’s autonomy but also identifying where protective intervention is lawful, necessary and proportionate. At the same time, it adopts an applied approach in considering real life potential situations. There are sections

identifying guiding principles to make these decisions, setting out the legislative and human rights framework in Scotland, assessing capacity and risk and other factors before going on to specifically consider marriage and civil partnership, social media and internet use, capacity, consent and the criminal law, staff knowledge, values, attitudes and practice, adult protection duties and interventions.

Clearly written and with helpful case studies it is a welcome update to badly needed guidance in this complex area. It draws on English case law,<sup>1</sup> there being only one reported case in Scotland of relevance to date,<sup>2</sup> the principles that underpin the operation of the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, related ECHR and CRPD requirements and possible actions and interventions under the three Acts and the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995.

*Jill Stavert*

<sup>1</sup> Although note that one case, *Re JB*, relied upon is (as discussed in the Health, Welfare and Deprivation of Liberty Report, on its way to the Supreme Court).

<sup>2</sup> *West Lothian Council v L.Y* (Livingstone Sheriff Court AW19/13)

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## Editors and contributors

**Alex Ruck Keene: [alex.ruckkeene@39essex.com](mailto:alex.ruckkeene@39essex.com)**

Alex is recommended as a 'star junior' in Chambers & Partners for his Court of Protection work. He has been in cases involving the MCA 2005 at all levels up to and including the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights. He also writes extensively, has numerous academic affiliations, including as Visiting Professor at King's College London, and created the website [www.mentalcapacitylawandpolicy.org.uk](http://www.mentalcapacitylawandpolicy.org.uk). To view full CV click [here](#).

**Victoria Butler-Cole QC: [vb@39essex.com](mailto:vb@39essex.com)**

Victoria regularly appears in the Court of Protection, instructed by the Official Solicitor, family members, and statutory bodies, in welfare, financial and medical cases. Together with Alex, she co-edits the Court of Protection Law Reports for Jordans. She is a contributor to 'Assessment of Mental Capacity' (Law Society/BMA), and a contributor to Heywood and Massey Court of Protection Practice (Sweet and Maxwell). To view full CV click [here](#).

**Neil Allen: [neil.allen@39essex.com](mailto:neil.allen@39essex.com)**

Neil has particular interests in ECHR/CRPD human rights, mental health and incapacity law and mainly practises in the Court of Protection and Upper Tribunal. Also a Senior Lecturer at Manchester University and Clinical Lead of its Legal Advice Centre, he teaches students in these fields, and trains health, social care and legal professionals. When time permits, Neil publishes in academic books and journals and created the website [www.lpslaw.co.uk](http://www.lpslaw.co.uk). To view full CV click [here](#).

**Annabel Lee: [annabel.lee@39essex.com](mailto:annabel.lee@39essex.com)**

Annabel has experience in a wide range of issues before the Court of Protection, including medical treatment, deprivation of liberty, residence, care contact, welfare, property and financial affairs, and has particular expertise in complex cross-border jurisdiction matters. She is a contributing editor to 'Court of Protection Practice' and an editor of the Court of Protection Law Reports. To view full CV click [here](#).

**Nicola Kohn: [nicola.kohn@39essex.com](mailto:nicola.kohn@39essex.com)**

Nicola appears regularly in the Court of Protection in health and welfare matters. She is frequently instructed by the Official Solicitor as well as by local authorities, CCGs and care homes. She is a contributor to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Assessment of Mental Capacity: A Practical Guide for Doctors and Lawyers* (BMA/Law Society 2019). To view full CV click [here](#).

**Katie Scott: [katie.scott@39essex.com](mailto:katie.scott@39essex.com)**

Katie advises and represents clients in all things health related, from personal injury and clinical negligence, to community care, mental health and healthcare regulation. The main focus of her practice however is in the Court of Protection where she has a particular interest in the health and welfare of incapacitated adults. She is also a qualified mediator, mediating legal and community disputes. To view full CV click [here](#).

**Rachel Sullivan: [rachel.sullivan@39essex.com](mailto:rachel.sullivan@39essex.com)**

Rachel has a broad public law and Court of Protection practice, with a particular interest in the fields of health and human rights law. She appears regularly in the Court of Protection and is instructed by the Official Solicitor, NHS bodies, local authorities and families. To view full CV click [here](#).



**Stephanie David: [stephanie.david@39essex.com](mailto:stephanie.david@39essex.com)**

Steph regularly appears in the Court of Protection in health and welfare matters. She has acted for individual family members, the Official Solicitor, Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities. She has a broad practice in public and private law, with a particular interest in health and human rights issues. She appeared in the Supreme Court in *PJ v Welsh Ministers* [2019] 2 WLR 82 as to whether the power to impose conditions on a CTO can include a deprivation of liberty. To view full CV click [here](#).

**Arianna Kelly: [arianna.kelly@39essex.com](mailto:arianna.kelly@39essex.com)**

Arianna has a specialist practice in mental capacity, community care, mental health law and inquests. Arianna acts in a range Court of Protection matters including welfare, property and affairs, serious medical treatment and in matters relating to the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court. Arianna works extensively in the field of community care. To view a full CV, click [here](#).

**Simon Edwards: [simon.edwards@39essex.com](mailto:simon.edwards@39essex.com)**

Simon has wide experience of private client work raising capacity issues, including *Day v Harris & Ors* [2013] 3 WLR 1560, centred on the question whether Sir Malcolm Arnold had given manuscripts of his compositions to his children when in a desperate state or later when he was a patient of the Court of Protection. He has also acted in many cases where deputies or attorneys have misused P's assets. To view full CV click [here](#).



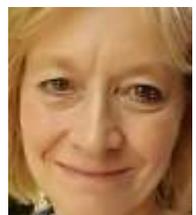
## Scotland editors

**Adrian Ward: [adw@tcyoung.co.uk](mailto:adw@tcyoung.co.uk)**

Adrian is a recognised national and international expert in adult incapacity law. He has been continuously involved in law reform processes. His books include the current standard Scottish texts on the subject. His awards include an MBE for services to the mentally handicapped in Scotland; honorary membership of the Law Society of Scotland; national awards for legal journalism, legal charitable work and legal scholarship; and the lifetime achievement award at the 2014 Scottish Legal Awards.

**Jill Stavert: [j.stavert@napier.ac.uk](mailto:j.stavert@napier.ac.uk)**

Jill Stavert is Professor of Law, Director of the Centre for Mental Health and Capacity Law and Director of Research, The Business School, Edinburgh Napier University. Jill is also a member of the Law Society for Scotland's Mental Health and Disability Sub-Committee. She has undertaken work for the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (including its 2015 updated guidance on Deprivation of Liberty). To view full CV click [here](#).



## Conferences

Members of the Court of Protection team are regularly presenting at webinars arranged both by Chambers and by others.

Alex is also doing a regular series of 'shedinars,' including capacity fundamentals and 'in conversation with' those who can bring light to bear upon capacity in practice. They can be found on his [website](#).

Neil is doing a (free) event for Dementia Carers on 11 June 2021 at 3pm. The online session provides an overview of carer rights in the context of dementia. It is part of the University of Manchester's research project which is analysing the changes to local authority support during Covid-19. Neil is particularly keen to understand the impact on carers over 70 looking after partners living with dementia at home. For details, and to book, see [here](#).

Neil is doing a DoLS refresher (by Zoom) on 29 June 2021. For details and to book, see [here](#).

Neil and Alex are doing a joint DoLS masterclass for mental health assessors (by Zoom) on 12 July 2021. For details, and to book, see [here](#).

## Advertising conferences and training events

If you would like your conference or training event to be included in this section in a subsequent issue, please contact one of the editors. Save for those conferences or training events that are run by non-profit bodies, we would invite a donation of £200 to be made to the dementia charity [My Life Films](#) in return for postings for English and Welsh events. For Scottish events, we are inviting donations to Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia.

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Our next edition will be out in June. Please email us with any judgments or other news items which you think should be included. If you do not wish to receive this Report in the future please contact: [marketing@39essex.com](mailto:marketing@39essex.com).

**Sheraton Doyle**

Senior Practice Manager  
[sheraton.doyle@39essex.com](mailto:sheraton.doyle@39essex.com)

**Peter Campbell**

Senior Practice Manager  
[peter.campbell@39essex.com](mailto:peter.campbell@39essex.com)



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[clerks@39essex.com](mailto:clerks@39essex.com) • [DX: London/Chancery Lane 298](https://www.39essex.com) • [39essex.com](https://www.39essex.com)

**LONDON**

81 Chancery Lane,  
 London WC2A 1DD  
 Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111  
 Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

**MANCHESTER**

82 King Street,  
 Manchester M2 4WQ  
 Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333  
 Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

**SINGAPORE**

Maxwell Chambers,  
 #02-16 32, Maxwell Road  
 Singapore 069115  
 Tel: +(65) 6634 1336

**KUALA LUMPUR**

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman,  
 Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin  
 50000 Kuala Lumpur,  
 Malaysia: +(60)32 271 1085

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