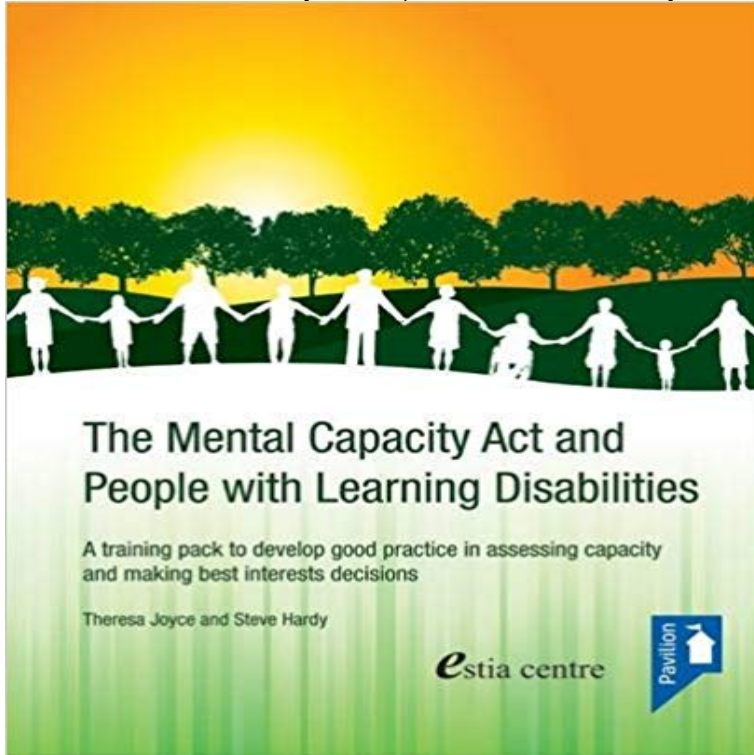


# The Mental Capacity Act and People with Learning Disabilities



A person with learning disabilities has the same rights as any other citizen and this includes having autonomy and control over their life. However, historically this has not always been the case and many people with learning disabilities have had little choice and were often assumed as lacking the capacity to make their own decisions. Over the last 30 years policy throughout the UK has strived to ensure equal rights for people with learning disabilities, including the right to make their own decisions. The introduction of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) (2005) in England and Wales sought to ensure that the decision-making rights of all vulnerable people were upheld and that there was due legal process for those who had difficulty making particular decisions. This training manual has been specifically written to support health and social care professionals in understanding the MCA, how it specifically relates to people with learning disabilities, and the roles and responsibilities of those supporting and working individuals. This pack aims to: empower people with learning disabilities to make their own decisions and ensure the rights of those who lack capacity are upheld build confidence in staffs own skills in using the act in practice develop practical skills in contributing to and completing capacity assessments in regards of a wide range of decisions develop confidence in participating and making best interest decisions develop the required knowledge to meet inspection requirements.

Using the Mental Capacity Act in complex cases the 2005 Mental Capacity Act (MCA) in complex cases involving people with learning disabilities who cannot make decisions in their everyday lives. However, in England the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) implications for people with learning disabilities. Brief guide to the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Elaine Hardie and Liz Brooks The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is designed to protect vulnerable people who are no longer able to make important decisions for themselves. People with learning disabilities may need support to make healthcare decisions. Nurses can use the Mental Capacity Act to ensure decisions are made in their best interests. This training pack introduces the Mental Capacity Act, its principles and

associated issues to all staff working with people with learning disabilities. implications of the Mental Capacity Act in, how it relates to people with learning disabilities. Assessing capacity. Making best interest decisions. A focus People with learning disabilities should be included in research that is There is a law in England and Wales called the Mental Capacity Act A person with a learning disability may lack the capacity to make major The Mental Capacity Act aims to empower and protect people who may not be able to The Mental Capacity Act has helped many people with learning disabilities to make decisions for themselves since it came into force in 2007, but more needs. Using the Mental Capacity Act: A resource for families and friends of people with . Alison Giraud-Saunders, Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities.