



# Assisted Decision Making



Hello my name is  
Finian you are all very  
welcome to this talk.



We are a self-advocacy group called Social Ability Carlow Kilkenny.



We meet on the last Friday of every month in Neighbourhood Hall in Kilkenny.



We love learning  
about self advocacy.



Advocacy is about speaking up for yourself or others.

## Social Ability

### Assisted Decision Making Project



Today we want to tell you about a project we are doing.



Our project is about  
Assisted Decision  
Making.





Let's look at what you  
will learn.



# The Act

You will learn that we have a new law.

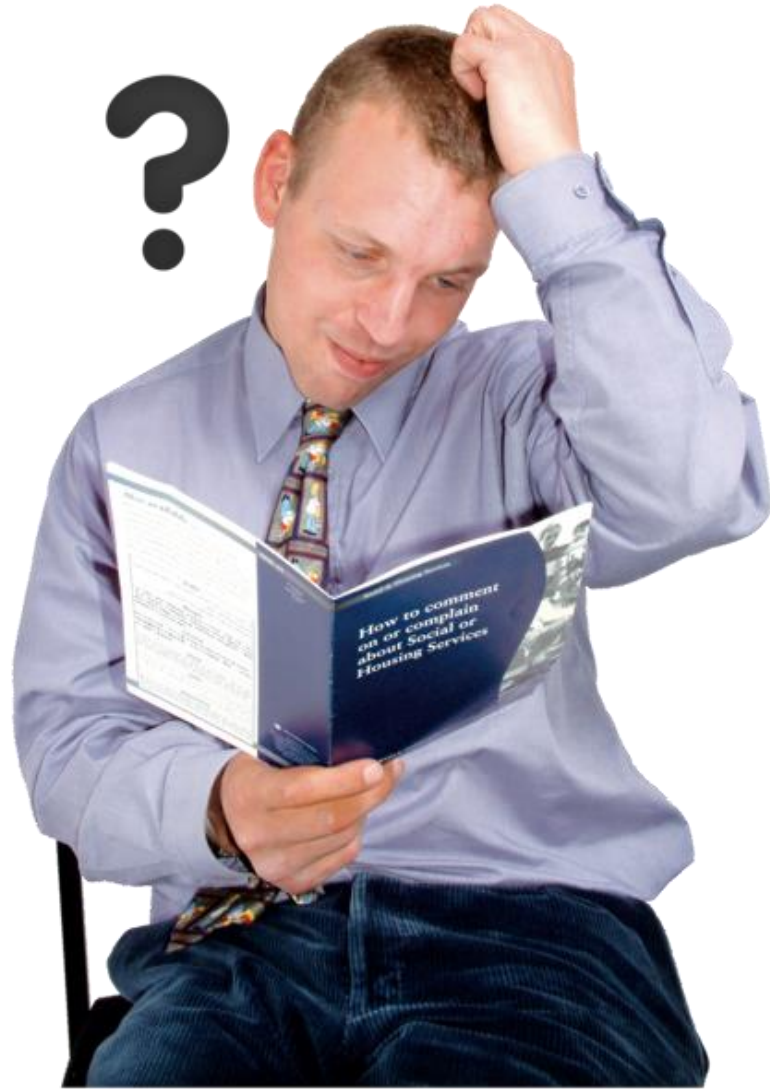


# The Act

The law is called the Assisted Decision Making Act.



You will learn about making decisions.



You will learn about the help a person can get if they find it hard to make a decision.



You will learn how to  
use the new law.



You will learn the  
rules of the new law.



You will learn that is very important that you use the rules in your work.





You will learn what a person can do if they are not happy with the help they get.



You will learn about the events we held to tell everybody about Assisted Decision Making.



You will learn how to help people in decision making.



You will learn how help people to say what is important to them.



You will learn about  
the research of Dr Jo  
Watson.



Let's Begin



We are going to start with an Icebreaker.

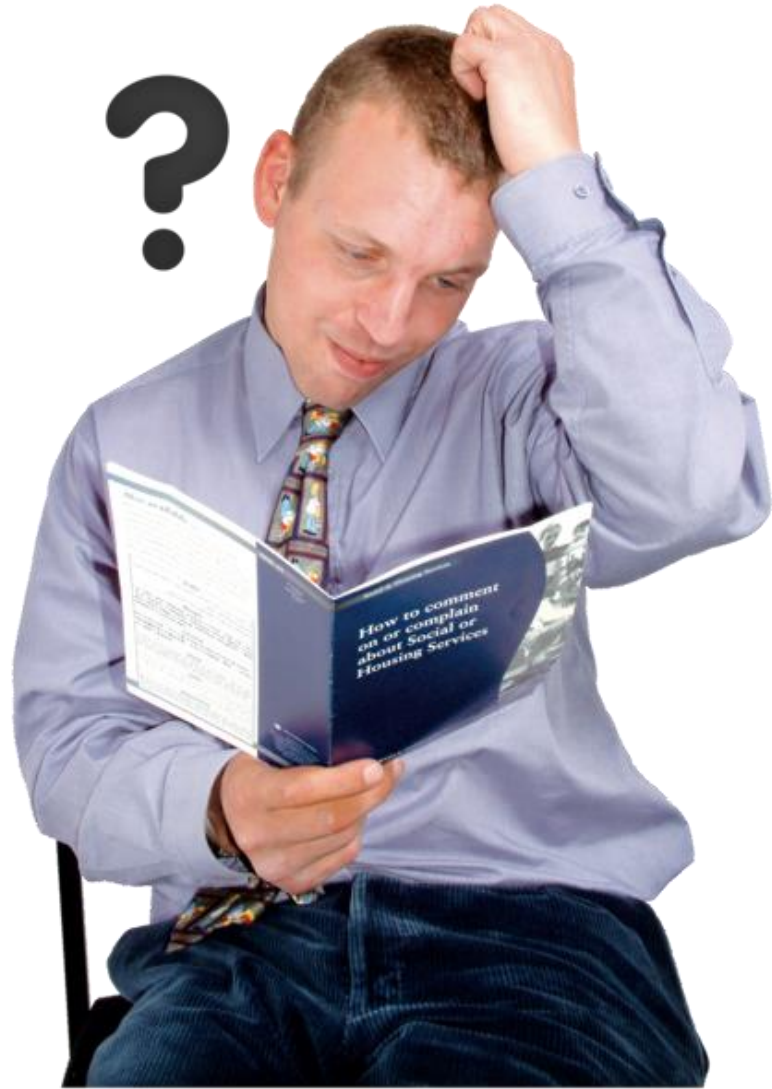


What decisions have you made today?





Well done it sounds like you found those decisions easy.



Some decisions are easy to make and some are hard.



If a decision is hard a person can get some help.



Let's look at the decisions a person can get help with.



Decisions about what clothes to wear everyday.



Decisions about money.



Decisions about bills.



Decisions about where to live.





Decisions about health.



Decisions about  
going out with friends.



**Decisions about work  
and training.**



Decisions about  
money and benefits.



Now Wael will talk  
about the rules of the  
law.



We want you to use these rules everyday.



You should use these rules when people are making decisions.



If you use these rules  
then people will enjoy  
their human rights.





We all can make decisions.



It does not matter if a person has a disability the law says every person can make decisions.



A person must be given help to make a decision if they need it.



Later on we will show you how to help people make decisions. It's easy don't worry!!!!



We know sometimes you worry that people make bad decisions.



That's ok we all make bad decisions.

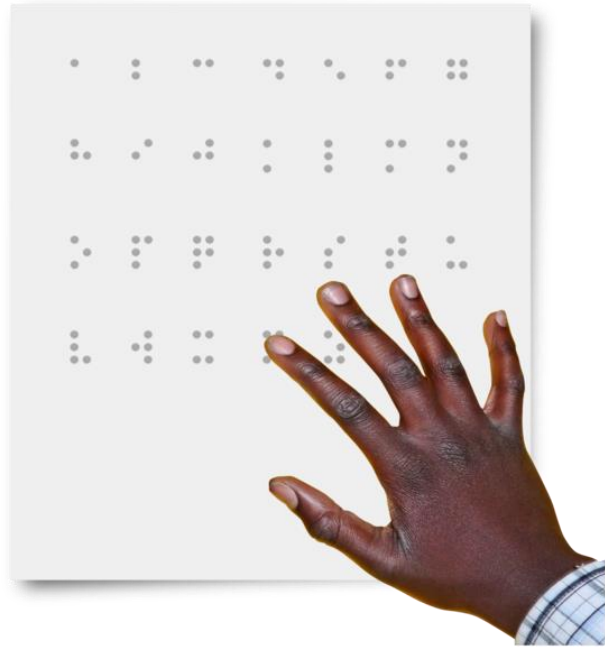


If a person makes a bad decision this does not mean they do not understand their decision.



If you think somebody is making a bad decision offer them accessible information on their choices.



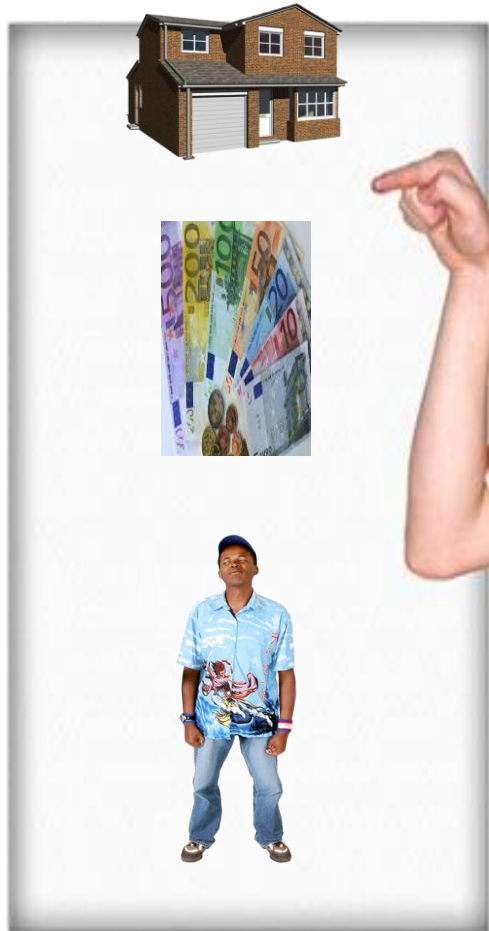


Sometimes you will need to give people support if they need it.





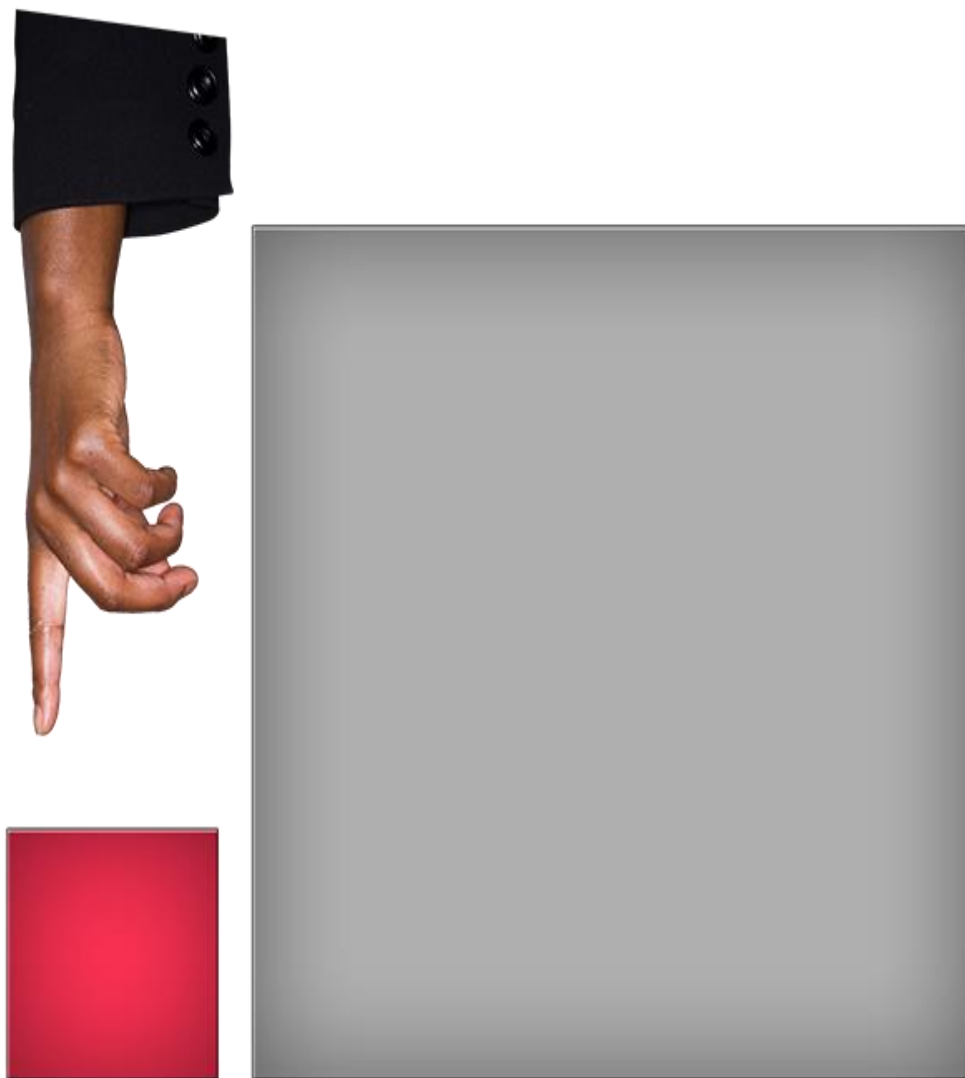
And sometimes you will just have to accept people's decision even if you don't like it.



You need to make sure every person has choice and control over their body, money and property.



The law says you should not get involved in someone's life unless there is a need to.



If you do get involved  
in someone's life this  
should be as little as  
possible.



The law says you must treat everyone with respect and treat them with dignity.



You should support everyone to say the things that are important to them.



You must make sure  
you listen to people  
and focus on them.





This means that you must get to know the person really well.



If a person is unwell  
you should not make  
decisions for them.



Instead, you should wait and support the person to make the decision when they are better.



The last rule is that a person's information is always kept private.



Now Kate will talk about what the new law means to her.



This law means I can make decisions by myself.



It means people will give me help only if I ask for it.



It means people will explain things to me.





It means people will give me information in a way that suits me.



I like to have  
information in easy  
read.



I like to have time and space to think about things.



I like to think about what is good and bad about my choices and then decide.



I like people to explain things using ordinary words.



This law means  
people will listen to  
what is important to  
me.



Now I would like to show you a video.



The video is about a girl called Margaret Turley.





Margaret is a self -  
advocate.



Margaret also gets support from her Mum to make decisions.



Now Finian will talk about making decisions with support.



Now we want to tell you about the decision support a person can get.





A person can ask for help to make a decision.



Let's look at the type of help a person can get.



# Decision Making Assistant



If a person needs help to make a decision they can get help from a decision making assistant.





The person making the decision chooses who they want help from.



The assistant must be a person they know and trust.



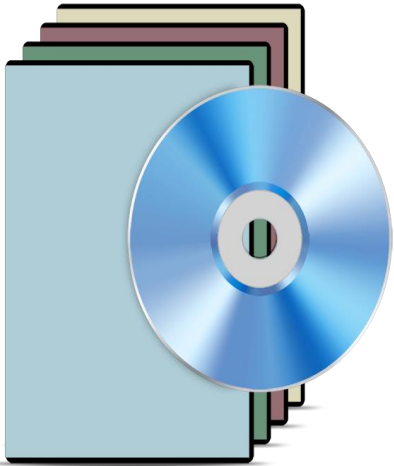
This could be a family member or a friend.



The assistant will help the person to find information.



This information can be the way they like it.





Once the person gets the help they need they make their decision.

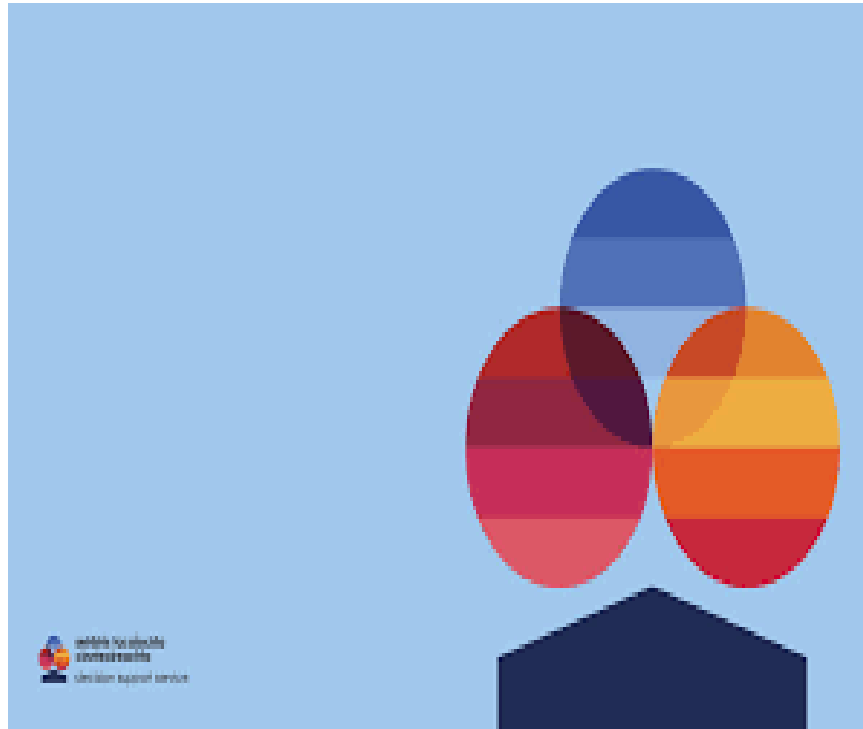


The assistant never  
make the decision for  
the person.



If the person is not happy with the assistant they can tell the Decision Support Service.





The Decision Support Service makes sure everybody keeps the rules of the law.



Co Decision Making



A person can ask  
someone to be their  
co decision maker.



They must know each other really well.



They must be happy  
to make decisions  
together.



The co decision maker will help the person to find information.



The co decision maker will explain all the information.



The co decision  
maker supports the  
person to say what  
is important to  
them.





Once the person gets the help they need they make the decision together.



If they are not happy with the job the co decision maker is doing they can tell the Decision Support Service.



Now Wael will  
talk about a  
Decision Making  
Representative



If a person is unable to make a decision another person can make it for them.



This person is called  
a Representative.



A judge decides who  
this person will be.



The judge will ask whether the person would suit and be good at their job.



The judge will ask the Representative to think about what is important to the person.





The Representative must focus on the person and make the decision they would want.



If the person is not happy with the support they get they can tell the Decision Support Service.



Now Kate will talk  
about Planning for  
the Future



A person can make a plan for the future.



The plan can be about the persons health and the care they get.



A person can also make a plan for their money and property.



In the plan the person can write down what is important to them.



The person can make the plan now when they are good at making decisions.

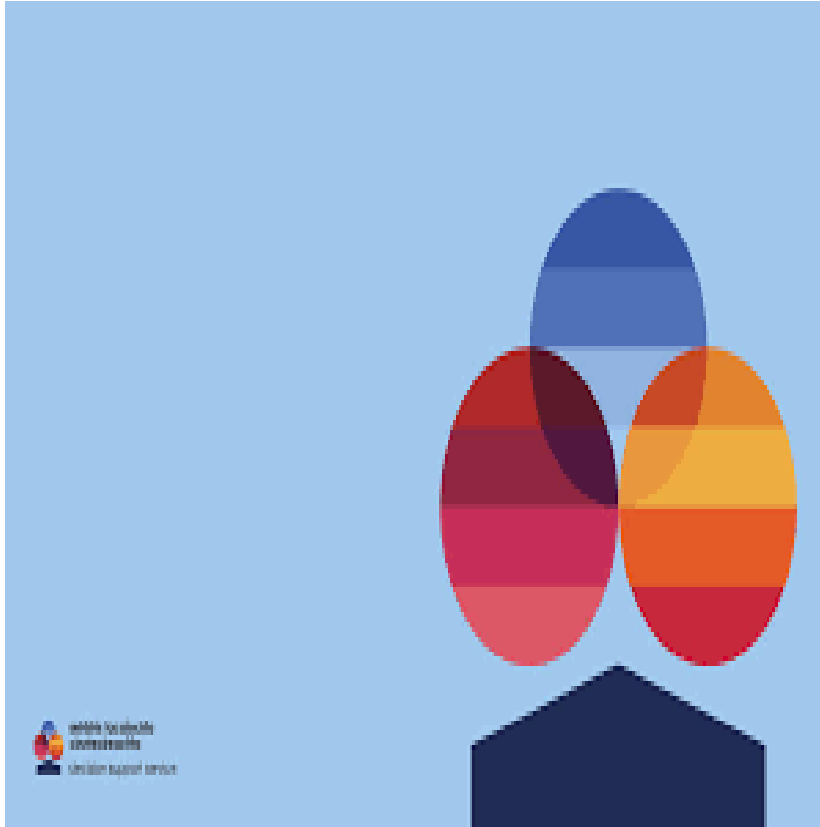




The plan is used when they are no longer able to make decisions.



The person can ask another person to help put the plan in place when it is needed.



They can tell the  
Decision Support  
Service they have  
made the plan.



Now Finian will tell  
you about what  
assisted decision  
making means for  
people with high  
supports Needs



Social Ability has 12 members.



Some of our members have high support needs.



At one of our meetings we talked about what decision making is like for people with high support needs.

## “No! You can’t have it”: Problematizing choice in institutionalized adults with intellectual disabilities

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Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

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# To find out more about it we did some research.

### Behind closed doors: human rights in residential care for people with an intellectual disability in Ireland

Kieran Murphy & Eleanor Bantry-White Dr.

To cite this article: Kieran Murphy & Eleanor Bantry-White Dr. (2021) Behind closed doors: human rights in residential care for people with an intellectual disability in Ireland, *Disability & Society*, 36:5, 750-771, DOI: [10.1080/09687599.2020.1768052](https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2020.1768052)

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Article

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# We first looked up some books and articles.



The research said that people with an intellectual disability living in Irish services have little or no control over their own lives.



The research said that in every organisation there is a culture.



The culture is made up of rules and habits.



These rules and habits  
effect how people are  
treated.



The way staff think about people with disabilities can affect whether they understand what they are communicating.



Some staff think people with disabilities are unable to make decisions in everyday life and so they decide for them.



Sometimes  
communication is even  
seen as challenging  
behavior.





We also found research that shows staff how people with high supports needs can be assisted to make decisions.



The research was done  
by a person called Dr Jo  
Watson.



The research says that helping people with high support needs to make decisions involves two important roles.



The 1<sup>st</sup> role is for the person with a disability.



The second role is for the supporter.



The role of the person with a disability is to show what they want or prefer.

By the following:



- Their behaviour
- Sounds they make
- Changes in tone
- Changes in muscle movement.



- Their facial expressions
- Eye movements
- Changes in breathing.





The role of the supporter is to:

**NOTICE** what the person is showing or saying they want.



**UNDERSTAND** what  
this means by thinking  
about it.



**TAKE ACTION** based on what they have understood.



Dr Watson says that there are different things that effect how the supporter responds such as:



The attitude of the supporter.



How well the supporter  
knows the person.



How well their circle of support works.



**YOUR CULTURE IS  
YOUR BRAND**

Also, the culture of the organisation will effect how and if the supporter responds.





Now lets look at a video  
of the research in  
action.



Now Kate Will Tell  
You About the  
Events We Held.



We set up a Pop - Up Information Desk in St Luke's Hospital.



We spoke to the nurses and doctors and gave them information on the Act.



We gave a presentation in two organisations that support people with disabilities.



We also gave a presentation to the Speech and Language Disability Special Interest Group.



We also held meetings to discuss what assisted decision making means for people with high support needs.



When we did our talks we found that people had never heard of the Act.





We would like all people who use a disability service to be told about the Act.



In some organisations we spoke to the staff did not know how to use the Act.



# Decision Support Service Code of Practice

## Code of Practice on Supporting Decision-making and Assessing Capacity

This Code should be read in conjunction with the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event of any conflict or inconsistency, the legislative provisions prevail.

**We think that all staff should get training and use their Codes of Practice.**



# Decision Support Service Code of Practice

## Code of Practice on Supporting Decision-making and Assessing Capacity

This Code should be read in conjunction with the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015. For the avoidance of doubt, in the event of any conflict or inconsistency, the legislative provisions prevail.

The Code of Practice does not explain how to assist people with high support needs in decision making.



We would like to  
include Dr Watson's  
work in the Code.



Now Lets Look at  
Some Case  
Studies

# Case Study One

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It is your turn to do some work.





Please chat with the person beside you about these case studies and give us some feedback



Tom visits the Doctor as he is not feeling well. He is supported by a staff member from his service.



The doctor asks Tom what is wrong. He explains he does not feel well.



The doctor suggests she should take Tom's blood to check what is wrong.



The doctor doesn't ask Tom and instead asks the staff member. Tom gets scared and he wants to leave.



What are Tom's rights according to the Act?



Now it is time for  
feedback

# Case Study Two

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Sarah has type two diabetes. She visits her dietician. Sarah has lots of information to consider and it seems really confusing.




Her dietician says don't worry I will send your plan to your Mum.



What are Sarah's rights according to the Act?



Now it is time for  
feedback

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. In the foreground, a hand is reaching out, palm up, wearing a black watch. The background is blurred, showing several other people clapping. The overall atmosphere is one of appreciation and gratitude.

That is the end  
of our talk thank  
you for  
listening.