

December Newsletter, 2013



We wish all of our customers, colleagues and friends a very Merry Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2014. St Thomas Training's office will be open as usual throughout the festive season (except for the Bank Holidays) so you are welcome to call or email us.

We hope this newsletter contains some items of interest – please feel free to ask us about anything in it, and/or to forward it to anyone else who you think might like to receive it.

A marriage where one individual lacks capacity could be classed as a “forced marriage”

A recent Court of Protection ruling considered the case of PM, a vulnerable woman with learning disabilities, who had undergone a marriage ceremony despite doubts having been raised beforehand about her capacity to understand what she was doing. It is said that on her wedding day she was slapped in the face by her mother to make her smile. The Judge concluded that the marriage should not have gone ahead and that an incapacitous marriage such as this is a forced marriage, with all the legal implications that follow for the family, the workers involved with her life and anyone who officiates at weddings (registrars, priests, vicars etc).

You can read the [full transcript of the judgement here](#). It's a lengthy document, so you may want to skim the introduction and then concentrate on paragraphs 146 – 167.

New training session: “Best Practice for Best Interests Meetings”

We have been commissioned to develop and deliver this new training session by a City Council in the south of England. They have identified that members of staff require some guidance on when a Mental Capacity Act Best Interests Meeting is and is not

appropriate, how to plan for it, how to chair it, how to involve the service and how to deal with conflict that might arise during it.

If you think your organisation could benefit from this training session too then please [email us](#) or give us a call on 02380 970 914. Remember – we come to you and deliver the training at your venue.

Free video clips

There are numerous free video clips available on the Internet covering all sorts of health and social care issues. Here are just a few of our favourites (you may need Flash for some of them, so they may not work on an iPad):

- [“Getting to know the person with Dementia – the importance of memories”](#)
 - [“What is depression?”](#)
 - [“Diabetes – Phoebe’s story”](#)
 - [“Opening Doors London”](#) (a project providing information and support services to and with older lesbian, gay, bisexual and / or transgender (OLGBT) people)
 - [“Frank and Rachel Bruno talk about mental health”](#)
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New training session: “Working with Schizophrenia and Bi-Polar Disorder”

Would you like to know:

- what are the similarities between schizophrenia and bi-polar disorder?
- what are the differences?
- what it might feel like to experience hallucinations?
- what to say to someone who is experiencing a psychotic episode?
- whether people with schizophrenia and/or bi-polar disorder are likely to be violent to others (or to themselves)?

If the answer is "yes" then this session is definitely for you. Please [email us](#) or give us a call on 02380 970 914. Remember – we come to you and deliver the training at your venue.

Official Report into Whistleblowing

The charity “Public Concern at Work” recently commissioned an extensive report into the effectiveness of whistleblowing arrangements across all workplaces in the UK. It made various recommendations including that there should be a legally enforceable

Code of Practice for whistleblowing. You can [read the full report here](#).

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