

February Newsletter, 2015

We hope you find some items of interest in this newsletter. Please feel free to forward to a friend or colleague if you wish. If you would prefer not to receive future newsletters then simply reply to this email with the word "stop".

Challenge to Supreme Court DoLS ruling?

Many of you will be familiar with the Supreme Court's ruling on DoLS, which was issued on 19th March 2014. You can see more details on our website by [clicking here](#).

In our last newsletter, December 2014, we reported that the Court of Protection (very tentatively of course) questioned the clarity of that decision. The new case concerned a lady called "Katherine" who [lives in her own home in Rochdale](#).

Last week the Court of Appeal ruled that the Supreme Court was correct after all. You can [read an analysis of the ruling here](#). Basically it reinforces what the Supreme Court said back in March 2014.

Local authorities in hot water for misusing DoLS

Following on from the previous article, two local authorities have been heavily criticised in the past few weeks for misusing the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards. Firstly Essex County Council held a [90 year old man](#) in a nursing home, against his will, for at least 13 months without a DoLS authorisation. Then Cambridgeshire County Council did exactly the same thing to an [elderly gentleman](#).

Mental Capacity Act and DoLS training

Both cases above highlight the importance of good training in the Mental Capacity Act and DoLS. We can provide this training, whether it's simple "Awareness" level training or more complex "Advanced" level stuff. Our current customers include Calderdale Council, Halton Borough Council, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, London Borough of Hounslow, Norfolk County Council, North Somerset Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council, Southampton City Council and Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group, as well as numerous care/nursing homes, housing associations and day centres. Please call or email us to discuss your MCA/DoLS training needs.

A "zero-goal" for suicide?

The Government and the NHS are reportedly considering a programme which aims to reduce suicide to zero. [Click here for more information from Harmless](#), a support organisation, which also has lots of useful resources on its website.

E-learning courses now available

We now have a [full range of e-learning courses](#) available on our website. There are over 40 topics, including Safeguarding Adults, Mental Capacity Act, DoLS, Autism Awareness, The Care Act. Several topics have free demo versions, so you can have a play around with them before you purchase a licence. Why not take a look now?

We need more trainers

St Thomas Training is expanding gradually, and we are looking for a few more trainers to join our approved list. You must, of course, be a high quality trainer with substantial hands-on experience of health and social care work. Whether you have only a few days a year, or several days a month, we would love to hear from you. We are especially looking for people who can deliver mandatory training such as moving and handling, food hygiene, basic first aid etc. But whatever your skills, do please give us a call or drop us a line. And if you know of anyone who might be

interested please forward this newsletter on to them and ask them to contact us.

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