

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Case Law Summary 2016-18

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* cases added since last edition

EW COP = Court of Protection

EW CA = Court of Appeal

UK SC = Supreme Court

ECHR = European Court of Human Rights

Issue	Case	Summary
Is DoLS ECHR compliant?	R.B. v United Kingdom [2017] no. 6406/15	The European Court of Human Rights confirms the DoLS process and safeguards means it meets the requirements of the ECHR.
What is a deprivation of liberty?	P v Cheshire West & Chester Council, P & Q v Surrey CC [2014] UKSC 19	Supreme Court: <i>'If the acid test is whether a person is under the complete supervision and control of those caring for her and is not free to leave the place where she lives, then the truth is that both MIG and MEG are being deprived of their liberty.'</i>
Medication: covert and to manage behaviour	AG v BMBC & SNH [2016] EW COP 37	Use of covert medication to manage behaviour for a woman with dementia in a care home. The BIA should record this as a restriction and consider the need for conditions, reviews and shorter duration. Note: BHCC v KD [2016] EW COP B2 confirms this approach.
Importance of Guzzardi	NRA & Ors [2015] EW COP 59	<i>'It is well established that the approach to the existence of a deprivation of liberty is governed by the Guzzardi principle.'</i> = restrictions assessed - type, duration, effect, manner, degree/intensity
Unescorted leave	Stankov v Bulgaria [2015] ECHR No. 25820/07	Unescorted leave (permission required, time limited and action taken if a person does not return) can still lead to a deprivation of liberty.
Article 8: private & family life	Steven Neary v Hillingdon Council [2011] EWHC 1377	DoLS cannot be used to remove a person from their family or prevent a person returning to their family (ie. for safeguarding reasons). DoLS authorises a breach of Article 5 (deprivation of liberty) but not Article 8. Such action needs Court of Protection authority.
Authorising signatory	Steven Neary v Hillingdon Council [2011] EWHC 1377	<i>'The responsibilities of a supervisory body, ..., require it to scrutinise the assessment it receives with independence and a degree of care that is appropriate to the seriousness of the decision'</i> . See also: P v Surrey County Council & Anor [2015] EW COP 54
Available options	N v ACCG and others [2017] UKSC 22	<i>'... just like P, the court can only choose between the "available options".'</i> Example: DM v Y City Council [2017] EW COP 13
Harm to others rather than self	P v A local authority [2015] COP No: 12715633	Court discharges DoLS because the main risk factor for the person was risk of harm to others.
DoLS appeals (Section 21A applications)	RD, JW, EP, JB & JP v local authorities (x4) [2016] EW COP 49 Director of Legal Aid Casework & Ors v Briggs [2017] EWCA Civ 1169	Detailed guidance on when and why to appeal under DoLS (Section 21A applications) by Representatives and IMCAs. Disputes about treatment or other personal welfare issues where the deprivation of liberty is not the essential issue are not DoLS appeals but instead a person welfare application to the Court of Protection. Disputes about where a person should live or limiting contact with others should be taken as a DoLS appeal. See form COPDLA
Restrictions for a short duration	Kasparov v Russia [2016] ECHR 849	<i>'Article 5 § 1 of the Convention may apply even to deprivations of liberty of a very short length..'</i> See also: [2013] EWCA Civ 69
Mental capacity assessment	Derbyshire CC v AC, EC & LC [2014] EW COP 38	What needs to be understood to be resident for care/treatment. See also: [2016] EW COP 4 [2013] EWHC 272 (Fam).
Choice of Representative	AJ v A Local Authority [2015] EW COP 5	<i>'... it is likely to be difficult for a close relative or friend who believes that it is in P's best interests to move into residential care, and has been actively involved in arranging such a move, into a placement that involves a deprivation of liberty, to fulfil the functions of RPR,...</i>
Conditions	Re W [2016] EW COP 58	<i>'..there is a duty on the supervisory body, .. to monitor compliance with</i>

		<i>conditions.</i> ’ Also: AG v BMC & SNH [2016] EWCOP 37 – a condition should be included in a DoLS if covert medication is prescribed.
DoLS for the objecting patient in a care home + Clozapine	BHCC v KD [2016] EWCOP B2	80 year old woman with schizophrenia and history of detentions under MHA 1983. Now in a care home + she is objecting + question of whether DoLS can be used to detain her + MCA used to give Clozapine + potential use of covert medication. Yes, to all.
Life-saving treatment (ICU) and DoLS	Re: Ferreira v HM Senior Coroner for Inner South London [2017] EWCA Civ 31	Three weeks in ICU for woman with a learning disability was not a deprivation of liberty but rather a restriction of movement: <i>‘In my judgment, any deprivation of liberty resulting from the administration of life-saving treatment to a person falls within this category.’</i> See also Court of Appeal: [2017] EWCA Civ 1169
Children and deprivation of liberty	A local authority v AT & FE [2017] EWHC 2458 (Fam) A local authority v D, E & C [2016] EWHC 3473 (Fam) In the matter of D (a child) [2017] EWCA Civ 1695	13 year old boy in residential care. See also: A local authority v D & Ors [2015] EWHC 3125 (Fam) - 14 year old boy with learning disability in a children’s home. Re: Daniel X [2016] CM15C05383 - 10 year old boy. Consent from a ‘Gillick’ competent child (age 15 in this case) to restrictions in a residential unit means it is not a deprivation of liberty. <i>‘..parental responsibility is, in principle, exercisable in relation to a 16 or 17-year old child who, for whatever reason, lacks ‘Gillick capacity’.</i> Parental consent may (in certain cases) be used to ‘authorise’ the care and control for under 18s so there is no Article 5 deprivation of liberty.
Community deprivation of liberty	SCC v MSA, JA and SCCG [2017] EWCOP 18 *KT & Ors [2018] EWCOP 1 Re: X [2014] EWCOP 25	A <i>domestic</i> DoL with family as carers. Man with learning disability in family home cared for by his mother. Care involves physical restraint and use of a padded room in the home. No external carers. See also: CC & CCG v MAG [2016] EWCOP 5 Representatives and lifting the pause (stay) on Community DoL cases Procedure for Court of Protection authorised deprivation of liberty + NRA & Ors [2015] EWCOP 59 + JM and others [2016] EWCOP 15
Imputable to the State	Staffordshire CC v SRK, RK and Ors [2016] EWCOP 27	Note: this case also refers to ‘assistive technology’ as a restriction (monitoring). See also: LB Haringey v R, P, F & A [2016] EWCOP 33
Mental Health Act or DoLS	AM v SLaM & Sec State for Health [2013] UKUT 0365	The procedure for admitting a person to a mental health ward and the decision about whether to use MHA 1983 or DoLS.
Leave of absence (MHA) and DoLS	A Hospital NHS Trust v CD & a Mental Health Foundation Trust [2015] EWCOP 74	Woman with schizophrenia under Section 3 of MHA and in need of total hysterectomy due to very large ovarian growth. Judge finds she can be put on s17 leave to general hospital and then DoLS used to detain her for the physical treatment.
Guardianship and DoLS	GW v Gloucestershire CC [2016] UKUT 499 (AAC)	Guardianship does not authorise deprivation liberty. A care plan under guardianship could be a deprivation of liberty and would need DoLS or Court order as well. See also: [2016] EWCOP 47 + [2015] UKUT 0125
Community Treatment Orders (CTO)	Re: MM and PJ (Deprivation of Liberty) [2017] EWCA Civ 194	A CTO can authorise a deprivation of liberty in the community without the need for DoLS (or DoL Court Order). CTO is: <i>‘..a power to provide for a lesser restriction of movement than detention in hospital which may nevertheless be an objective deprivation of liberty provided it is used for the specific purposes set out in the CTO scheme.’</i>
Conditional Discharge and DoLS	Re: MM and PJ (Deprivation of Liberty) [2017] EWCA Civ 194	If the restrictions of a proposed conditional discharge create a deprivation of liberty the person CANNOT consent to them in order to avoid the deprivation of liberty and a MH Tribunal cannot order a conditional discharge where the conditions mean the person will be deprived of their liberty. A DoLS or Court order will be needed for this. See also: Sec of State for Justice v KC and C Partnership NHS Foundation Trust [2015] UKUT 0376 (AAC)