

1

# Are you a carer of someone who has a disability or illness that affects their ability to make decisions?

## Would you like to...

- have your views as a carer listened to?
- have greater clarity about the decisions that you can make?
- have a legal basis to make decisions on behalf of the person you care for?

## Then, please help us to campaign for new legislation by writing to your MP.

We have drafted a sample letter. Please feel free to change it so that it reflects your experiences and concerns.

Date

Your address

Name MP

House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Dear ....., MP

I am the parent/carer of a person who *[please state the nature of the disability/illness]* and he/she is unable to make certain day-to-day decisions about his/her medical treatment or general welfare or financial matters. Decisions that many of us take for granted, such as taking medication or planning for future support and living arrangements, are difficult for *[my son/daughter/the person I care for]* to make.

As the principal carer, I am deeply concerned by the gap in the law which offers no protection either to *[my son/daughter/the person I care for]* or myself. At present, the law does not define whether, and to what extent, people have the capacity to make decisions. I am also unsure about what decisions I can and cannot make on behalf of *[my son/daughter/the person I care for]*.

**The Making Decisions Alliance believes that new legislation on mental capacity is urgently needed**

For more information and other formats of this pack visit [www.makingdecisions.org.uk](http://www.makingdecisions.org.uk)

2

*If relevant, please describe any experiences/problems that you have encountered when looking after the day to day welfare, medical or financial arrangements for your son/daughter/the person you care for, which you feel are important. For example:*

- The person hasn't been given support to make their own decision about their medical treatment.*
- There may be situations where your judgement, acting in the best interest of the person you care for, has differed from the views of the doctor, and your input/opinion has been ignored.*
- You have found yourself in legal difficulties because you have made a decision on behalf the person you care for (this could be about their welfare or medical treatment and financial affairs).*

I hope you will consider writing to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to express my deep concerns at the slow progress in bringing forward legislation to address this problem. The Government has indicated its support for legislation but no legislation has been forthcoming.

For your information, I wholeheartedly support the Making Decisions Alliance, a consortium of organisations with a deep interest in this issue of mental capacity.

I would be grateful to know your views on this issue and look forward to hearing from you. If you would like to be briefed on the Making Decisions Alliance's campaign, then please contact its Parliamentary Officers, Anthony Noun on 020 7696 5568 or Senay Camgoz on 020 7903 3769.

Yours sincerely

We would be grateful if you could send a copy of your letter and any response that you get to Anthony Noun, Parliamentary Officer, Mencap, 123 Golden Lane, London EC1Y 0RT

**The Making Decisions Alliance believes that new legislation on mental capacity is urgently needed**

For more information and other formats of this pack visit [www.makingdecisions.org.uk](http://www.makingdecisions.org.uk)