Support to Make a Will:
Follow up to the Everyday Decisions Project
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The Everyday Decisions Research Project

The Everyday Decisions Project asked how disabled people make everyday decisions, and how they are supported by care professionals to make choices.

We wanted to find out how mental capacity law works in practice to find areas of good practice and areas where practical or legal changes would help protect disabled people’s rights.

You can read an easyread summary of everything we found out on our website:
www.legalcapacity.org.uk
We found out that disabled people don’t always get the help they need to make a will.

We decided to do some extra research to find out how law and policy could change to help disabled people to make a will.

What we found out

- We found out that the law about supporting disabled people to make a will is not as clear as it could be.

- We found out that care professionals do not know how to support disabled people to make a will.
We found out that disabled people like to have a trusted supporter with them when they make a will.

We found out that disabled people trust family members, personal assistants and advocates to support them.

We found that there is not enough easyread information about making a will.

We found out that disabled people sometimes find solicitors hard to understand.
What we think should happen

1. We think there should be more training to help care staff learn about wills.

2. We think there should be training to help solicitors communicate better with disabled people.

3. We think that new easyread information about making a will needs to be made.

4. We think that law and practice needs to change to recognise the role of supporters in helping a disabled person make a will.
We think that a new law is needed to help disabled people easily nominate a supporter that they trust.

We think that a nominated supporter scheme could apply to lots of decisions, not just to wills.

We think that a nominated supporter scheme would be the best way to protect disabled people from financial abuse.

We think that a nominated supporter scheme should include supervision of the supporter by a public body like the Office of the Public Guardian.
We would like to know what you think about our research.

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