

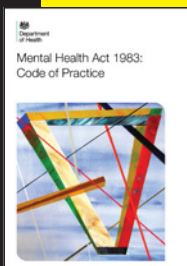


Department
of Health

An easy read fact sheet

Visiting

This fact sheet is about your right to have visitors when you are detained in hospital.



Know your rights

The Mental Health Act
Code of Practice

Visiting

Key facts

- * You can have visitors.
- * Your visitors can be very important in giving you support.
- * There are different rules for different wards.
- * There will be things your visitors can and can not bring you.
- * The staff and your **Independent Mental Health Advocate** can help you understand this.



Can I have visitors?

- You can have visitors if you are being detained in hospital.
- There are lots of different types of wards in mental health hospitals.
- Different wards may have different rules for visitors. You should ask what the rules are on the ward where you are detained.



When can they visit?

- Some wards may have fixed visiting times. Others may let people visit at anytime.
- Your family and friends can get information about visiting from the staff on the ward.
- If you have visitors you might want to ask if you can meet in a private room, rather than meeting in the day room where other people will be.

Can I visit my family?

- If you are detained in hospital, you cannot leave unless your responsible clinician gives you permission.
- It may be possible to visit your friends or family with staff from the ward for a set amount of time.
- For more information on leaving hospital see our fact sheet called: **Leaving the ward**.



Can I ask my visitors to bring me in things?

- If there is anything you have forgotten, you can ask your visitors to bring these in for you.
- Your visitors may be able to bring food and drink in for you.
- There may be some items that your visitors are not allowed to bring in to you.
- The staff on the ward should be able to tell your family and friends about the things that they are not allowed to bring.



What if I don't want visitors?

- There may be times when you want visits to be for a shorter time or less often.
- You may decide that you don't want visits for a period of time.
- You can tell a nurse or a doctor if you are not happy with your visiting arrangements.





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Where in the code?

This easy read fact sheet comes from:

- DH Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice, Chp 11 'Visiting patients in hospital' pages 83–86

Download the code:

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396918/Code_of_Practice.pdf

Download the easy read fact sheets:

www.nhs.uk/easy-mentalhealthact

Download the easy read glossary:

www.nhs.uk/glossary

More information:

**The High Security Psychiatric Service
(Arrangements for Safety and Security)
Directions, 2013**

www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-security-psychiatric-services-directions