

Mental Health Law Briefing

Number 115

Department of Health announces further amendments to the Mental Health Bill

The continuing saga that is the Government's proposals to amend the Mental Health Bill continues.

Last week the Government announced that there would be a further amendment to the Mental Health Bill.

In summary the effect of these would be :

- Supervised community treatment could only be used to ensure that individuals receive treatment to prevent the risk of harm to their health and safety or to protect other people (rather than the much wider scope previously proposed).
- Statutory advocacy services will be introduced to

support patients detained under the Mental Health Act.

- Victims of convicted mentally disordered offenders will have increased rights such as the right to know when the offender is to be discharged into the community and to make representations about discharge.
- Children and young people will receive treatment for mental disorder in units that are suitable for their age and needs
- Extending safeguards for patients receiving ECT¹

Full information about the Bill is available from http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/publicationsandstatistics/dh_063423.

Andrew Parsons
© RadcliffesLeBrasseur
June 2007

¹ In addition there are one or two small technical amendments

For more information on Mental Health Law contact Andrew Parsons at RadcliffesLeBrasseur on 020 7222 7040, or email andrew.parsons@rlb-law.com.

Out of office emergency advice available 24hrs on 07802 506 306.

Readers are advised to take specific advice before acting in reliance on the matters set out in this briefing.

Future editions can be received by email. Please e-mail: marketing@rlb-law.com or telephone 020 7227 7476.