



Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Legal Literacy in Safeguarding Practice

What is legal literacy? Recognising when the law is relevant, understanding the key duties, powers and rights that apply, and using this knowledge confidently and collaboratively to support lawful, person-centred safeguarding decisions.

Five legal literacy questions to ask yourself

1	What legal frameworks apply?
2	What are the person's rights, wishes and feelings?
3	What evidence do I have?
4	What options, powers and duties are available?
5	Who else should I be discussing this with?

Key Message: Legal literacy is a shared responsibility. The best safeguarding decisions are often made when practitioners use their collective legal knowledge, evidence, supervision, professional expertise and challenge through effective multiagency working.

Remember: knowing when to seek advice, including from managers, specialist colleagues or your organisation's Legal Team, is an important part of legally literate practice.

Pause. Reflect. Discuss. Record.

Find out more about adult safeguarding:
<https://www.derbyshiresab.org.uk/home.aspx>