

Social Care

Protecting property of adults being cared for away from home



Read more:

Care Act: Section 24 and 25

Guidance: Chapter 10, p185

If someone is being cared for away from their home, for example they are in hospital or temporarily supported in a care home, and they have no one else, or are unable to make arrangements themselves, to make sure their property is secure; we will take all reasonable steps to protect their moveable property.

This will include arranging for pets to be looked after as well as personal items.

If access to the property is required, this will only happen with the consent of the person, or if they lack capacity, anyone acting with legal authority. Reasonable advanced notice to enter should be given.

If they do not have capacity, and have no one with legal authority to act on their behalf, then decisions will be made in their best interest using the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

A member of staff who has permission to enter a property will be provided with written authorisation by a Manager, to be produced if asked for.

Providing these steps have been followed, if a third person tries to prevent us from protecting the property without good reason, they will be committing an offence, and their details will be shared with County Solicitor for legal proceedings and prosecution for unreasonable obstruction.

Our duty to protect property ends when the person returns home, or when they are able to make their own arrangements for the protection of their property.

We will recover from the person all reasonable expenses incurred in protecting their property.