

WHO CAN DECIDE WHETHER A YOUNG PERSON IS COMPETENT?

Generally doctors are the people who decide whether a young person is Gillick Competent or not. However, the judgement in this case can also be interpreted as covering anyone who works with young people, such as Social Workers, Youth Workers and Health Care Professionals. This has not yet been tested in court.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

It means that young people under the age of 16 can have more say about decisions that affects their lives.

This could apply to their dealings with others outside of the medical profession e.g with Social Workers, Youth Workers, Solicitors.

HOW CAN A DECISION ABOUT GILLICK COMPETENCE BE CHALLENGED?

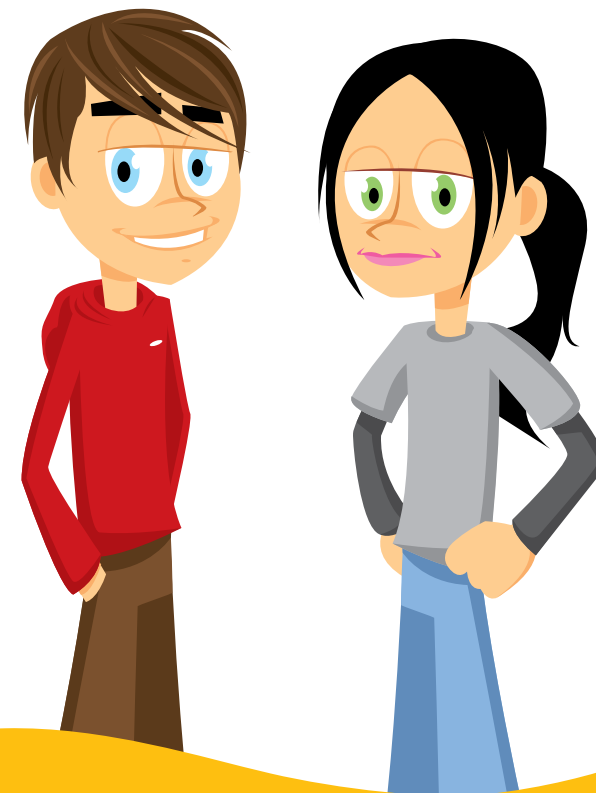
The simple answer is that you can seek a second opinion, e.g if your Doctor or Solicitor makes a decision that says you are not mature enough to understand information, then you have the right to challenge this decision.

ARE YOU CONFUSED OR STILL NOT SURE?

If you are uncertain about any aspect of this leaflet, or want some extra support, you can ask for an **Advocate** from VOYPIC and they will be happy to help you.

HOW DO I GET AN ADVOCATE?

- Ring 08450 742 942 and ask for the Advocacy Service or email advocacy@voypic.org
- You will talk to the Duty Advocate. They can offer you help and advice there and then
- If you need to meet someone for further support, they will put you in touch with an Advocate in your area
- It is that easy! Our Duty Advocates are there for you 9.30am-5.30pm, Monday to Thursday and 9.30am – 4.30pm on Friday



ADVOCACY LINE: 08450 742 942

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**YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO
THE GILLICK
PRINCIPLE**

This leaflet is based on information contained within the British Medical Journal

PLEASE NOTE THE INFORMATION ON THIS LEAFLET WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINT

THIS LEAFLET IS A SHORT GUIDE TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT WHEN YOU CAN MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT ADULT CONSENT

It is intended to give you information about:

- What is meant by the Gillick Principle?
- How it works
- Who can decide whether a young person is Gillick Competent or not?
- Why it's relevant to you
- How can a decision about Gillick competence be challenged?



THE BACKGROUND TO IT :

A lady called Victoria Gillick challenged a Health Department, for providing her teenage daughter with medical advice and treatment, without her parental consent. Mrs Gillick lost the case. The court ruled that her daughter was competent enough to consent for herself.

WHAT DOES THE GILLICK PRINCIPLE MEAN?

It refers to a court ruling that said if a young person under the age of 16 was considered to be mature and understood what was happening to them then they could give their consent for medical treatment.

HOW IT WORKS...

To be able to consent or be considered Gillick competent, a young person should have an understanding of:

- 1) What the treatment involves
- 2) What may happen if the treatment fails
- 3) An awareness of all possible courses of action
- 4) An awareness of what will happen if no action is taken.

Before this ruling was made it was against the law to treat a young person under the age of 16 without parental/guardian consent. This is a significant ruling!

