

## Policy and Legislation

### 1998

- [White Paper Modernising Social Services](#) stressed the importance of improving protection for adults needing care and support.
- [Speaking up for Justice](#) - Report highlighted the treatment of vulnerable or intimidated witnesses in the criminal justice system and the need to obtain 'best evidence'. This resulted in their eligibility for special support measures under Part 2 of the Youth and Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 supported by the Home Office Action for Justice and Achieving Best Evidence guidance.
- [Public Interest Disclosure Act](#)
- [Crime and Disorder Act](#)

### 2000

- [Human Rights Act 1998](#) placed a positive duty upon 'public bodies' to act compatibly with the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights. This includes a duty to intervene proportionately to protect the rights of citizens. Article 2: 'The right to life', Article 3: 'Freedom from torture' (including humiliating and degrading treatment), Article 8: 'Right to family life' (one that sustains the individual).
- [No Secrets](#) – guidance published by the Department of Health builds upon the Government's respect for human rights and highlights the need to protect vulnerable adults through effective multi-agency teamwork.
- [In Safe Hands: Implementing Adult Protection Procedures in Wales](#)

### 2003

- [Sexual Offences Act](#)
- [Disability Discrimination Act](#)
- [Criminal Justice Act](#) Hear say – Representation in Court

## 2004

- [Domestic Violence and Crime Victims Act](#)

## 2005

- [Mental Capacity Act](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults](#) – National Framework of Standards was issued by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS). The national framework is comprised of 11 sets of good practice standards in safeguarding adults. It makes a distinct shift in language from ‘vulnerable adult’ as used in No Secrets to ‘safeguarding adults’.

## 2006

- [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act](#)

## 2008

- [Autism, a guide for criminal justice professionals](#): Guidance produced by the National Autistic Society, providing background information about autistic spectrum disorders.

## 2010

- [Equality Act 2010](#) and [Code of Practice](#)

## 2011

- [Achieving Best Evidence](#): Guidance on interviewing victims and witnesses and guidance on using special measures. (revised 2011)
- [Adult Social Care Law Commission Report 11th May 2011](#)
- [Self Neglect and Adult Safeguarding](#): Findings from research September 2011
- [Hidden in Plain Sight](#) Inquiry into disability related harassment.
- [County Durham and Darlington Sexual Violence Strategy](#)
- [The Handling of Vulnerable Witnesses, Victims and Defendants in Court](#)

- [Intermediary Procedural Guidance Manual](#)
- [CPS Care Quality Standards](#)
- [CPS Prosecution Guidance: Victims and Witnesses Who Have Mental Health Issues and/or Learning Disabilities.](#)
- [CPS Code for Crown Prosecutors](#)
- [MIND Prosecutor's Toolkit: Achieving justice for victims and witnesses with mental distress: a mental health toolkit for prosecutors and advocates.](#)

### **Useful Articles**

- [Community Care Podcast](#)
- [Court of Protection](#): defender of the vulnerable or shadowy and unjust? This article published in the Guardian 6<sup>th</sup> November 2011, makes reference to some recent cases and highlights some of the role, conflicts and difficulties faced by the Court of Protection as well as some of the controversies surrounding.

### **Links to useful organisations**

- [Care Quality Commission](#) (formally Commission for Social Care Inspection)
- [Ann Craft Trust](#): organisation working with staff in the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors to protect people with learning disabilities who may be at risk from abuse.
- [Voice UK](#): national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse.