

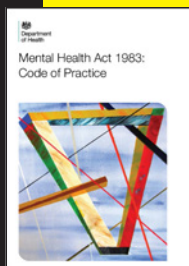


Department  
of Health

An easy read fact sheet

# Visiting

This fact sheet is about your right to have visitors when you are detained in hospital.



**Know your rights**

The Mental Health Act  
Code of Practice

# Visiting

## Key facts

- \* You can have visitors.
- \* Your visitors can be very important in giving you support.
- \* There are different rules for different wards.
- \* There will be things your visitors can and can not bring you.
- \* The staff and your **Independent Mental Health Advocate** can help you understand this.



## Can I have visitors?

- You can have visitors if you are being detained in hospital.
- There are lots of different types of wards in mental health hospitals.
- Different wards may have different rules for visitors. You should ask what the rules are on the ward where you are detained.



## When can they visit?

- Some wards may have fixed visiting times. Others may let people visit at anytime.
- Your family and friends can get information about visiting from the staff on the ward.
- If you have visitors you might want to ask if you can meet in a private room, rather than meeting in the day room where other people will be.

## Can I visit my family?

- If you are detained in hospital, you cannot leave unless your responsible clinician gives you permission.
- It may be possible to visit your friends or family with staff from the ward for a set amount of time.
- For more information on leaving hospital see our fact sheet called: **Leaving the ward**.



## Can I ask my visitors to bring me in things?

- If there is anything you have forgotten, you can ask your visitors to bring these in for you.
- Your visitors may be able to bring food and drink in for you.
- There may be some items that your visitors are not allowed to bring in to you.
- The staff on the ward should be able to tell your family and friends about the things that they are not allowed to bring.



## What if I don't want visitors?

- There may be times when you want visits to be for a shorter time or less often.
- You may decide that you don't want visits for a period of time.
- You can tell a nurse or a doctor if you are not happy with your visiting arrangements.





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## Where in the code?

**This easy read fact sheet comes from:**

- DH Mental Health Act 1983: Code of Practice, Chp 11 'Visiting patients in hospital' pages 83–86

**Download the code:**

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/396918/Code\\_of\\_Practice.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/396918/Code_of_Practice.pdf)

**Download the easy read fact sheets:**

[www.nhs.uk/easy-mentalhealthact](http://www.nhs.uk/easy-mentalhealthact)

**Download the easy read glossary:**

[www.nhs.uk/glossary](http://www.nhs.uk/glossary)

### More information:

**The High Security Psychiatric Service  
(Arrangements for Safety and Security)  
Directions, 2013**

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-security-psychiatric-services-directions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/high-security-psychiatric-services-directions)