

## Book review: *Medical Treatment: Decisions and the Law*

*Medical Treatment: Decisions and the Law* is edited by Christopher Johnston QC, this is the third edition which looks at "The Mental Capacity Act in Action". The book is published by Bloomsbury and follows previous editions in that it sets out the law in this complicated and fast moving area in a user friendly way. Changes to the law in this field are occurring so rapidly that Serjeants' Inn is updating the book regularly through its UK Medical Decision Law Blog. The blog is an excellent way of keeping pace with developments; updates include The Law Commissions published report on Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty and draft bill. The blog neatly summarises the Law Commissions conclusions and advises on what happens next.

This book is a practical legal guide in three parts. Part one deals with the general principles and procedures underlying patient autonomy, and those without capacity. Explanations are clear and are provided within the context of Montgomery consent and the case law evolving from this landmark decision. It also looks at consent within the context of advanced decisions, deciding for others - adults and children. This part of the book provides guidance on practice and procedure and looks at some of the factors that can help to determine whether court proceedings are an appropriate or necessary course of action. It also looks at deprivation of liberty and restraint.

Part two looks at specialist areas of practise such as, sterilisation, abortion, assisted reproduction, religious objection to treatment and end of life decisions - to name but a few of the topics covered under this section. Part three sets out the key precedents, forms and materials relating to each chapter.

Unlike many books on this topic, this is a structured and well written book that goes to the heart of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Not only does it make the application of the law in this area feel more manageable but its straightforward style makes it a book you actually want to pick up and read, we can't recommend it highly enough!

**Lisa O'Dwyer**  
Director Medico-Legal Services

## New directory of service providers

AvMA has published a directory of service providers who provide services specifically for clinical negligence solicitors. It is an essential easy reference point for any services that a clinical negligence solicitor or their client needs. You can download a copy of the directory here: [http://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/0/6/0/3/1/files/34464\\_lawyers-service-directory-acnc17.pdf](http://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/0/6/0/3/1/files/34464_lawyers-service-directory-acnc17.pdf). A new edition of the directory is being published to coincide with AvMA's Annual Clinical Negligence Conference (Leeds, 23rd-24th June) and will be emailed direct to your inbox as well as being available on the AvMA Lawyers Service members website: <https://www.avma.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/members-area/>. Please mention AvMA's directory when contacting service providers. Also please let us know if there is a category or a service provider you think should be included. Contact: [vicki@avma.org.uk](mailto:vicki@avma.org.uk) for more information or a booking form which is available for download here: [http://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/0/6/0/3/1/files/34463\\_lawyers-service-directory-entry-form---pro-rata.pdf](http://i.emlfiles4.com/cmpdoc/6/0/6/0/3/1/files/34463_lawyers-service-directory-entry-form---pro-rata.pdf).