

# Consent for videos and photos of people with PMLD

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# Why is consent important?



**We need to do everything possible to make sure that people are happy to show their images to the public.**

However, even when information about this is presented as simply and clearly as possible, some people will not be able to understand.

When someone is not able to consent to the use of their images we need to involve their family, friends, carers and advocates in the decision.

# Why use videos/photographs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities?



- People with profound and multiple learning disabilities are under-represented and rarely supported to participate in decisions about their lives.
- Many other people do not know much about the lives of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. This can mean that some policies and services are not inclusive of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.
- To change this we need to challenge people's attitudes and help them to understand what it means to have profound and multiple learning disabilities.
- Telling people's stories with photos and videos can help raise awareness. It is also a way of helping someone's 'voice' be heard by showing what people like to do and what support they need to do it.
- Raising awareness and understanding in this way can benefit the lives of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.
- While it can be difficult to gain consent, we should not make assumptions that someone would not want their images shown just because they have profound and multiple learning disabilities.

# How can we make sure that people's rights are respected when showing their images?



- Involve the person as much as possible. Tell and show the person that you are doing and make sure that they are comfortable with being videoed/photographed.
- Try to help the person understand that the material is going to be seen by people they do not know. You can do this by involving the person to show their images to different groups of people and watching their reactions.
- Photographs and videos that are going to be shown to the general public should always portray the person in a positive and respectful way. Think about how you would feel if it was you and check with those who know the person well.
- You should not include any information that the person or those who know them well feel is inappropriate.
- The person and those who know them well should have the final say on which material you show.
- Make sure the person involved receives copies of the material you are showing.
- Make sure that images are kept securely.