

Protecting the Elderly in Singapore: The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Proposed Vulnerable Adults Act (VAA)

Presenter: Ms Charlotte Beck, Senior Director, Family Development Group, Ministry of Social and Family Development

Date: 19 August 2016

Time: 4pm to 5:30pm

Venue: Seminar Room 01-17, National University of Singapore, The Shaw Foundation Building, Block AS7, Level 1, 5 Arts Link, Singapore 11757

Abstract:

Singapore is ageing rapidly. By 2030, there will be over 900,000 residents aged 65 and above, many of whom would be single or have no children. There is a need for future-ready legislation to enhance the protection of our elderly. The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) enables individuals to make a Lasting Power of Attorney to appoint someone they trust to make decisions on their behalf in case they lose mental capacity (i.e. a “donee”). The Court may also appoint a “deputy” to act on behalf of a mentally incapacitated person. The MCA was amended in March 2016 to introduce professional donees and deputies, who serve individuals with no family support. The proposed Vulnerable Adults Act (VAA) will enable the State to intervene more effectively to protect vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities who are suffering or at risk of harm due to abuse, neglect or self-neglect. It complements the MCA by extending coverage to those whose mental incapacity has not yet been established. This presentation will provide an overview of both the MCA and the VAA, and touch on the policies, programmes and services to better serve and protect seniors in Singapore.

Presenter’s profile:

Ms Charlotte Beck is currently the Senior Director of the Family Development Group in the Ministry of Social and Family Development. She started her career in the then Ministry of Social Affairs in the Child Care Division. She went on to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs. She left for the private sector and returned to the civil service assuming the appointment of Director at the Public Service Commission. She joined the then Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports in late 2003, handling Family Policy which included gambling safeguards. Following this, she moved on as Senior Director handling the Elderly, Disability and Gambling Safeguards portfolio. With effect from July 2013, she returned to the Family portfolio.

REGISTRATION IS CLOSED

Registration closes on Monday, 8 August 2016.

Seats are on a first-come, first-served basis. All are welcome.

For enquiries, please contact [Ms Jess Tan](#)