The 5 Principles

**Principle 1:** Assume a person has capacity unless proved otherwise.

**Principle 2:** Do not treat people as incapable of making a decision unless all practicable steps have been tried to help them.

**Principle 3:** A person should not be treated as incapable of making a decision because their decision may seem unwise.

**Principle 4:** Always do things or take decisions for people without capacity in their best interests.

**Principle 5:** Before doing something to someone or making a decision on their behalf, consider whether the outcome could be achieved in a less restrictive way.