

Table of Contents

<i>Table of Cases</i>	xv
<i>Table of Statutory Instruments</i>	xxiii
<i>Table of Statutes</i>	xxv
<i>Table of Treaties, Conventions etc</i>	xxix
1. Introduction	1
What is old age?	2
Law and older people	4
The case against elder law	6
The justification for elder law	6
Structure of the book	9
2. Ageism and Age Discrimination	12
Introduction	12
Ageism	13
Social disadvantage among older people	15
The glorification of youth	18
Language	18
Media representation of old age	19
Overt discrimination in public services	20
Social separation and older people	20
The intersection of age, race, and sex	21
Thinking further about ageism	22
Analogies between ageism and sexism or racism	24
Age discrimination	26
Defining discrimination	26
Direct and indirect discrimination	29
Discrimination on the basis of age	30
The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006	33
Extent of law	35
The definition of discrimination	36
Harassment on the grounds of age	39
Discrimination by victimization	39
Exemptions	40
Remedies	40
Controversial issues	40
Justification for discrimination	40
Occupational requirement	44

Retirement	45	
Positive action		47
The impact of the regulations		48
The new equality law		49
Conclusion		50
3. Capacity, Incapacity, and Old Age		52
Introduction		52
Basic legal principles		53
The competent	53	
Defining capacity	54	
Treatment of a person lacking capacity	57	
Difficult issues in treating those lacking capacity		59
Use of force and best interests	59	
To what extent are the values, character, and views while competent relevant to assessing best interests?	59	
Relevance of current views	61	
To what extent are the views or interests of those caring for the incapacitated individual relevant?	65	
End-of-life issues	66	
Critics of the best interests principle	67	
Advance decisions		69
Law	69	
Philosophical debates over advance directives	74	
Lasting power of attorney		82
Deputies and the court of protection		83
Those deemed just competent		84
The importance of autonomy	84	
Autonomy and harmful decisions	85	
Autonomy and decisions contrary to the individual's previous values	87	
Conclusion on the just competent	89	
Mental Health Act 1983		89
Conclusion		90
4. Carers		94
Introduction		94
Statistics on carers		97
State support for carers		100
Benefits for carers	100	
Availability of care services	101	
Direct payments	105	
Government reforms		107
Housing issues		108

Carers and the Mental Capacity Act 2005	109
Interpreting the Mental Capacity Act	110
Ethical arguments	113
Carers and autonomy	115
Healthcare rationing and carers	118
Carers and other areas of the law	121
A human rights response	121
Ethic of care	124
Critics of an ethic of care	128
Putting an ethic of care into practice	129
Conclusion	130
5. Elder Abuse	132
Introduction	132
The difficulties in defining elder abuse	134
Elder abuse or abuse of vulnerable people	135
At what age does abuse become elder abuse?	137
Who perpetuates elder abuse?	137
Limiting abuse to physical abuse?	138
Must the abuse be age-related?	139
Legitimacy	139
Must the abuse be intentional?	139
How serious must the abuse be?	140
Societal elder abuse	140
A consideration of some popular definitions	141
The forms of elder abuse	143
Financial abuse	144
Sexual abuse	145
The misuse of medication	146
Elder abuse and gender	147
Statistics	147
Who is abusing?	149
Who is abused?	150
What kinds of abuse take place?	150
The causes of elder abuse	150
Micro causes	151
Macro causes	157
Ageism and elder abuse	159
Institutional abuse	162
The voices of those in care homes	166
Good care homes	167
Restraint	169
Regulation	170

The Health and Social Care Act 2008	172	
The Protection of Vulnerable Adults list	173	
Multi-agency work	175	
Criminal law		176
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult	176	
Ill-treatment or neglect of a person lacking capacity	177	
Failings of the current criminal law	178	
Prosecutions without the victim's consent	179	
Civil law		180
Civil remedies by public agencies	181	
Need for court order	185	
Changing attitudes and responses to elder abuse		187
Dependency and care	187	
Social context	189	
Statutory regime for elder abuse	189	
Commissioner for older people	194	
Mandatory reporting	195	
Conclusion		195
6. Older People and Financial Issues		197
Introduction		197
The 'demographic time bomb'		197
Poverty in old age		199
Benefit payments for older people		201
Basic state pension	201	
State second pension or state earnings-related pension scheme (SERPS)	202	
Pension credit and guarantee credit	202	
Other benefits, discounted charges, and concessions	202	
Benefits and funds for special needs	202	
Assistance with care	203	
Means-testing benefits	203	
Low take-up rates	204	
Pensions		206
The objectives of pension systems	207	
Balancing state and private funding	207	
Paying now or paying later	208	
Pensions as savings or a form of insurance	209	
Regulation of pension markets	209	
Forms of pension	210	
Economic issues	211	
What retirement age should be used?	212	
The current state of pensions		213
The current system	214	

Gender and pensions	215
Reform of pensions	216
The need for reform: 'the pensions crisis'	216
The reforms	218
Consideration of the reforms	220
Funding care	223
Solutions	226
Messages from Scotland	228
Family financial obligations and older people	228
Financial liabilities of parents towards adult children	230
Should we enforce filial responsibility?	231
Conclusion	234
7. Grandparenthood	235
Introduction	235
Sociological issues	236
The changing nature of families and the role of grandparents	237
What do grandparents do with grandchildren?	240
Grandparent-headed homes	242
Differences between grandparents	242
The law of grandparents	243
ECHR and grandparents	244
Disputes over residence	244
Disputes over contact	245
Debate over the law	249
Public law	257
Grandparents when the local authority removes the child	257
Adoption of children and privacy	257
Involving grandparents in decision-making	260
Orders where the grandparent is to be the carer	261
Grandparental care	266
Conclusion	268
8. Older People and Healthcare	270
Introduction	270
The social care and healthcare distinction	271
Ageing and health	274
Medicalization and old age	277
Rationing and older people	279
General issues	279
Quality adjusted life years (QALY)	282
Ageism and QALY	283
Fair innings	286

Rawls/Daniels	288
Harris	289
Public opinion and age discrimination	290
NICE and age	291
Legal challenges to rationing decisions	293
Treatment overseas	297
Examples of age discrimination in the health setting	298
Mental health	301
Breast and cervical cancer screening	301
Malnourishment	302
Palliative care	302
Conclusion	305
9. Inheritance	307
Introduction	307
People's expectations surrounding inheritance	309
Making a will	312
The contents of a will	314
Wills and ownership	315
The law and wills	316
The law and succession: testamentary freedom?	316
Testamentary capacity	321
Intestacy	323
The law on intestacy	324
Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975	328
The justifications for the Act	328
Who can apply under the Act?	330
What can be claimed?	331
Attempts to avoid the Act	333
Comments on the Act	333
Proprietary estoppel	334
Inheritance tax	337
Conclusion	341
10. Conclusion	342
<i>Index</i>	349