



Lasting Powers of Attorney

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document which allows you to appoint a person or people to make decisions for you, or to act on your behalf if you are no longer able to or no longer want to make your own decisions.

There are a number of reasons why you might need someone to make decisions for you for example, if you are in hospital and need help with everyday things such as making sure bills are paid or if you lose the mental capacity to deal with your affairs on your own.

Being a spouse or blood-related family member does not entitle you to make decisions on behalf of your relative and unfortunately, if you lose capacity without having a LPA in place, it can be a long and expensive process for those closest to you to gain authority to look after your affairs.

There are two different types of Lasting Power of Attorney:

1. **Property and Financial Affairs:** Allows your attorneys to make decisions and assist you with money, tax, bills, bank and building society accounts, property and investments as well as pensions and benefits.
2. **Health and Welfare decisions:** Allows your attorneys to make decisions on a range of things such as daily routine, for example washing, dressing and eating, medical care, where you should live and most importantly, decisions relating to life sustaining treatment.

In both cases the LPAs cannot be used by your attorney until they have been registered with the Office of the Public Guardian and for Health and Welfare, not until you have lost mental capacity.

The Process

We can advise you upon this matter and ensure that your Lasting Powers of Attorney are properly prepared and registered with the Office of the Public Guardian. Guiding you from start to finish.

1. **Initial Appointment** – At your initial appointment we will explain why a Lasting Power of Attorney may benefit you and your family. We will discuss who you would like to appoint as your attorneys and will take the relevant details such as the names, addresses and dates of birth of your chosen attorneys,
2. **Final Appointment** – Once your Lasting Powers of Attorney are ready for signing, we will contact you to arrange an appointment to have your Lasting Powers of Attorney signed. During this meeting, we will act as your 'Certificate Provider', confirming that you have mental capacity to put the Lasting Powers of Attorney in place and you will then sign the documents.

3. **Attorneys must sign** – Your attorneys will then need to sign your Lasting Powers of Attorney. Your attorneys can attend your final appointment, arrange a separate appointment or we can send the relevant pages for their signature in the post.
4. **Registration** – We will then deal with finalising your Lasting Powers of Attorney by having them registered with the Office of the Public Guardian.