

LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) replaced Enduring Powers of Attorney on 1st October 2007. It is a legal document that lets you appoint as an attorney one or more persons you trust to make decisions on your behalf. You should have full understanding of what you are doing when you sign the LPA. After the LPA is signed, it has to be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before it can be effective.

There are two types of LPA, namely :-

(i) Property and Financial Affairs LPA

You may choose someone to make decisions about how your money is spent and how your property and financial affairs are managed and,

(ii) Health and Welfare LPA

You may choose someone to make decisions about your health care and welfare including decisions to consent to, or refuse to consent to medical treatment and intervention on your behalf and deciding where you live.

These decisions can only be taken by your Attorney after the document is registered but remain valid even if you lose the mental capacity to make decisions for yourself.

You should think very carefully about your choice of Attorney. It ought to be someone you feel you can trust explicitly to act in your best interests.

These documents are more lengthy and complex than the document they replaced and more formalities are required immediately, partly in an attempt to reduce the incidence of fraud to which the earlier version was said to be prone. You would be wise to seek legal advice to set up an LPA.