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# Lasting Powers of Attorney

#### WHAT ARE LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY?

- Lasting Powers of Attorney are the official documents where you can appoint others to act on your behalf.
- There are two types of Lasting Powers of Attorney.
  - Property and Financial Affairs Lasting Powers of Attorney.
  - Health and Welfare Lasting Powers of Attorney.
- With both Lasting Powers of Attorney, you should choose those that you trust to be your attorneys as they will be able to make financial decisions for you and decisions about your care.



### PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

- The Property and Financial Affairs Lasting Powers of Attorney allows your Attorneys to act with paying bills, selling your home, handling your bank accounts etc.
- You can select for the Property and Financial Lasting Powers of Attorney to be able to be used straight away and not only once you have lost capacity.

#### HEALTH AND WELFARE LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

- Unlike the Property and Financial Affairs Lasting Powers of Attorney, the Health and Welfare Lasting Powers of Attorney can only be used once you have lost capacity.
- The Health and Welfare Lasting Powers of Attorney can be used for decisions with relation to your care - from going into a care home, to your daily routine, to medical decisions if you have to attend hospital and up to and including life sustaining decisions.



## Who Should You Choose?

### Who should you choose to be your attorney?

- You should always choose someone who you trust to handle your affairs.
- If you have no one who you would trust to appoint as your Attorney, you can also consider appointing a professional trustee who has experience in these matters but you should be aware that in doing so, you would have to pay their professional fees in enabling them to carry out your wishes.

### How long does the process take?

- The Office of the Public Guardian, which is the organisation responsible for approving the Lasting Powers of Attorney, regularly updates their timescales. However, please be advised that the Office of the Public Guardian can on average take 16-weeks to register a Lasting Powers of Attorney from when they are received by them.
- This average 16-week period excludes the time taken to take instructions from you, prepare the documents and have them executed.
- The length of time required to process a Lasting Powers of Attorney Application from instruction to registration is a further reason why Lasting Powers of Attorney need to be considered in advance and not as an emergency measure when there is a risk that capacity may be lost because if you lose capacity quite quickly; even though the documents would have been completed whilst you still had capacity; they are unable to be used until registration is complete.



## Why You Should Obtain Lasting Powers Of Attorney

**Not just as you get older:** There is a misconception that you should only think to obtain Lasting Powers of Attorney as you get older because they are there for when you can no longer make the decisions for yourself. Many people therefore associate this with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

However, there are sadly many events that can occur unexpectedly which could leave you incapacitated. Consider the possibility of falling into a coma or being in hospital for weeks due to an accident or unexpectedly being diagnosed with an auto immune disease.

If Lasting Powers of Attorney were not put in place and you were in control of your families' financials, they may struggle in your absence. Equally, if you were in a coma and a decision had to be made with regards to your care, your family may be left with no input to this decision at all.



**Peace of Mind:** For many who obtain their Lasting Powers of Attorney, they are drafted in the hope that they never have to be used but with the reassurance that if something were to happen, the people whom they trust the most in the world, will be able to make decisions for them and be able to continue the running of their lives. **Those closest to you:** By having Lasting Powers of Attorney in place, if you lost capacity or needed assistance, those closest to you will be spared the costly and time-consuming process of applying for a Deputyship Order.



## WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT OBTAIN LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND LOSE CAPACITY?

If you lose capacity and have not put in place Lasting Powers of Attorney your family may have to apply for a Deputyship Order



## Why Adlington Law?

- Adlington Law are a family run law firm with traditional family values.
   We believe in treating our clients in the way that we would wish our family to be treated.
- You will receive a dedicated point of contact but if for any reason they are not free, the whole team at Adlington Law works together and will assist, following which your file handler will return your call.



Single Lasting Powers of Attorney	£350 + VAT
Two Lasting Powers of Attorney	£550 + VAT
Four Lasting Powers of Attorney (for a couple)	£950 + VAT

There is a standard Court fee of £82 which attaches to each Powers of Attorney, which must be paid to enable registration of the document. However, in the event that you are in receipt of certain means tested benefits, such as income support or housing benefit, you may be exempt from paying the Court fee and you will be asked by your file handler, to provide evidence of the same to present to the Court when requesting this concession. Equally, if your annual income is less than £12,000 before tax, you will be entitled to a remission of up to 50% of the fee.

Please discuss your own individual circumstances with your file handler, who will be able to advise you fully.

In the event that you lose capacity without a Lasting Powers of Attorney being in place, it will be necessary to consider an application to the Court of Protection for a Deputyship Order.





### **BEST CONVEYANCER**

**ADLINGTON LAW** 





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