Your voice.
Your decision.

THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE?

A guide to lasting powers of attorney

WHAT IS A LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY?

A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a legal document. It allows you to choose someone you trust to make decisions on your behalf if you're ever unable to.

This could be due to an accident, an illness, or just a time in life when making decisions feels difficult. An LPA means you stay in control by deciding who can step in — and when.

There are two types of LPA. You can choose to set up one or both, depending on what feels right for you.

Health and Welfare LPA
This LPA covers decisions about your medical care, daily routine, and future living arrangements. It can only be used if you are unable to make these decisions yourself.

Property and Financial Affairs LPA
This LPA covers paying bills, managing your bank account or pension, and selling your home. It can be used as soon as it is registered, with your permission.

To make an LPA, you need to be aged 18 or over and able to make your own decisions at the time of application. You cannot make an LPA on someone else's behalf.

What about 'next of kin'?

It's a common belief that your next of kin can automatically make decisions for you — but this isn't the case.

Without an LPA, no one, not even your family, can act on your behalf if you can't make decisions for yourself. This includes accessing your bank accounts, making care choices, or handling your affairs. An LPA makes this possible.

DECIDING WHO YOU TRUST

If you're thinking about setting up an LPA, you'll be known as the '**donor**'.

The person or people you choose to act on your behalf, if you lose capacity to make decisions for yourself, are called '**attorneys**'. This could be a family member, friend or someone else you trust to carry out your wishes.

With an LPA in place, you can:

- **choose who you trust to act for you**
- **decide what decisions they can make**
- **include instructions or preferences about how they should act**
- **stay in control while you're able to make your own decisions**

STARTING AN APPLICATION

Applying for an LPA involves a few important decisions – from choosing someone you trust to deciding which type of LPA is right for you.

- **CHOOSE**

  Choose who you trust to be your attorney.

- **DECIDE**

  Think about which type of LPA you need – property and financial affairs, health and welfare, or both.

- **APPLY**

  Visit **GOV.UK/power-of-attorney** to make your LPA online with guidance at every step, or download and complete the forms by hand.

TAKING THE NEXT STEPS

£92
to register an LPA

Paying for your lasting power of attorney

There is a fee to register each LPA, but you may not have to pay the full amount.

If you earn under £12,000 a year, you may qualify for a 50% reduction. If you receive certain means-tested benefits, you may not have to pay a fee. Visit our website to find out more.

START THE CONVERSATION

Use **#YourVoice** and find out more about lasting powers of attorney via our blogs, real stories and guidance

visit www.powerofattorney.campaign.gov.uk

Website: **www.powerofattorney.campaign.gov.uk**

Email: **customerservices@publicguardian.gov.uk**