



Lasting Powers of Attorney

How would you feel if you lost control of your finances, property and even medical decisions? There may be a point in time when you become physically or mentally incapable of making decisions relating to these crucial issues.

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) signed now allows you to appoint someone of your choosing to deal with your affairs should you lose the capacity to deal with them in the future.

Many people will have seen how a person's life can be turned upside down by having no such provision in place. Without the correct documentation it can be very difficult for family members or even a friend to deal with your affairs, leaving them to fall into confusion.

If you own business assets and would prefer different people to handle your business affairs from your personal affairs then this is possible.

An LPA allows you to:

- **Choose your Attorneys and how they are to be appointed**
- **Maintain control until you lose capacity**

Types of LPA

- **Property & Finance**
- **Health & Welfare**

If you lose your mental capacity and there is no LPA in place then the alternative is for someone (a friend or relative or in some cases the local authorities) to apply to the Court of Protection to be appointed as your Deputy. This process is lengthy, complex and much more expensive than signing an LPA. Furthermore, you will have not been able to choose your Deputy. That is why we would urge all of our clients to make a Lasting Powers of Attorney to avoid such difficulties arising in later years.

Our Simple Process

SMH Wills Services has designed a simple checklist to capture all the information we need to draft your LPA for you.

Once drafted we will arrange a convenient time for you to come in and sign your LPA. Or if you prefer we can send it out to you, with instructions, for you to arrange to sign it yourself.

Once signed by all parties your LPA should be ready for registration with the Office of the Public Guardian. We will facilitate this for you and let you know once your LPA has been registered.

Once it has been registered it is ready to use.



Frequently asked questions

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document signed by an individual granting permission for someone else to deal with their affairs if they become incapable of doing so themselves.

Why would I need one?

If for any reason you were to become incapable of managing your own affairs and had not signed an LPA in advance, then the Court of Protection would need to appoint a Deputy to deal with them for you. This is a lengthy, complex and expensive process and your affairs could easily fall into disarray while this was completed.

How do they work?

Once an LPA has been signed, it needs to be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian. Registration takes around 2-4 months to complete. After registration, you are free to ask your Attorneys to carry out work for you if you wish, but you retain full control of your affairs otherwise. It is only if you are unable to make a decision for yourself that your Attorneys must step in and manage things for you. Your Health & Welfare LPA can only be used in the event you lose capacity unlike the Property & Financial document.

Who can I appoint?

You can appoint anyone over the age of 18, provided they have full mental capacity. You can appoint one person or a number of people, depending on what works best for you. You can also appoint substitute Attorneys to take over from them if they were unable to do the job for any reason.

Would I be able to control what my Attorneys did?

Yes. You can include restrictions and guidance on what the Attorneys can or cannot do on your behalf in the LPA itself.

What if I change my mind later on and make a new one?

If you are unhappy with the arrangement, you can cancel your LPA by signing a Deed of Revocation and make a new one.

What are Enduring Powers of Attorney?

These were the predecessor to the LPA. The LPA was introduced in October 2007 and any Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) signed before then remains valid; however you must use the LPA form instead for any Power of Attorney given after that date.

How can I get the application started?

If you wish to speak to someone about LPAs in more detail, or you wish to instruct us to prepare an LPA for you, then please either call one of our offices on the numbers on the back page or email wills@smh.group.

Fixed price options

Lasting Power of Attorney for Property & Financial Affairs	£360 + VAT for an individual £550 + VAT for a couple
Lasting Power of Attorney for Health & Welfare	£360 + VAT for an individual £550 + VAT for a couple
Both Lasting Power of Attorneys Mirror LPAs (both types)	£550 + VAT £850 + VAT

There is a registration fee (per LPA) payable to the Office of Public Guardian.

Exemptions and reductions applicable.

If your requirements are not met by our fixed price options, our charges will then be based on our hourly rates.

Based on 2025 fee scale and info is correct as of September 2025. Please call to check current fees.

The information within this brochure is correct as of September 2025. Rules and Laws are subject to change.

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