



Lasting Powers of Attorney

A **Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA)** is a legal document that lets you appoint one or more people to help you make decisions or to make decisions on your behalf. This does not have to be sons, daughters, or other relatives - it is more about who you trust. The LPA means you can decide what happens to you if you cannot make your own decisions (you 'lack mental capacity').

If a person has already lost capacity, you will be unable to register an LPA.

There are 2 forms of LPA's: Property & Affairs LPA and Health & Welfare LPA

Property and Affairs LPA

You will need this LPA if you are looking after someone else's money, even if they still have capacity. For instance: drawing money from their bank account, paying their bills or generally dealing with their finances. It is especially important if you need to sell a property to finance care payments.



Health and Welfare LPA

This LPA covers welfare and medical care, for example, what treatment to give, DNAR, where to live and day to day care.

How to do an LPA



You can arrange a LPA either by using a Solicitor or by using the online form at

www.gov.uk

If you complete the forms yourself, check all the information is accurate and correct, if there are any mistakes the form will be sent back to you and you could be charged again. There is a downloadable booklet which explains how to complete the forms and gives advice and a telephone helpline. Forms are taking approx.10 weeks to process at the present time.

On the form there are 2 options.

Option 1: to register and use immediately;

Option 2: only comes into force once capacity is lost.

Option 1 is usually the best route - get the form registered and stamped by the Court immediately, then it is there if you need it.

You will need a witness to sign the form to confirm the person is signing of their own free will and that they understand the implications – the witness is called a 'Certificate Provider'. They should be someone who has known the person for over 2 years, but not a relative.

It currently costs £82.00 to register each LPA, if you use a solicitor costs will vary; make sure you check the cost first.