

Lasting Power of Attorney

**Making arrangements for
others to look after your affairs.**

We are often living longer but not always in perfect health. For example, there are currently over 850,000 people in the UK with dementia, a figure estimated to rise to over one million by 2025.

Planning for the future means preparing for the unexpected - as you grow older, you may need someone else to make important decisions for you.

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What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document which allows you to give another person (your attorney), the authority to make important decisions on your behalf.

You can only make an LPA when you are mentally capable. It's a vital tool allowing you to make arrangements for the possibility that you may not be mentally or physically capable in the future.

Types of Lasting Power of Attorney

Health and Welfare LPA

These allow your attorney(s) to deal with your medical, welfare and care needs:

- Where you should live
- Whether or not you should have a certain type of medical treatment
- Who you should have contact with
- What kinds of social activities you should be involved in.

If a decision has to be made about life-sustaining treatment, your attorney(s) can only refuse or consent if you have said in the LPA that you want them to be able to make that kind of decision for you.

Health and Welfare LPAs can only be used by your attorney(s) at a time when you are unable to make such decisions for yourself.

We're here to help

At Actons, we have a team of specialist lawyers who will advise and guide you through the process of preparing a Lasting Power of Attorney - tailored to your own individual circumstances. Call us on 0115 9 100 200 or visit our website at www.actons.co.uk

Property & Financial Affairs LPA

These allow your attorney(s) to deal with your property and financial affairs:

- Paying your mortgage and bills
- Buying, selling, or arranging repairs to your property
- Investing your money
- Giving people access to your financial information
- Paying for care and other things you may need.

Property and Affairs LPAs can be used by your attorney(s) whilst you are mentally capable and when you are not. This can be a very convenient way to delegate authority to your family.

Making your LPA

We will discuss all the issues with you and your family, providing expert guidance on issues including:

- Who should be your attorney(s)
 - Someone who is good at handling their own money and who has the knowledge and expertise to be able to deal with your finances
 - Someone who knows you, your values and beliefs well enough to be able to make decisions which take your wishes into account
- How the process works if you want more than one attorney
- What happens if the attorney is no longer able to carry out the role
- What you would and wouldn't want your attorney(s) to do. You can restrict certain things for example such as selling certain assets or making gifts over a certain value
- What authority your attorney(s) are to have on the issue of life-sustaining treatment
- How you can give specific guidance to your attorney(s), for example to consult a trusted advisor or family member before they take certain decisions
- How much it will cost.