

Two types of lasting power of attorney

Health and welfare decisions

A health and welfare lasting power of attorney gives people the power to make decisions about things like:

- your daily routine – for example, washing, dressing and eating
- medical care
- moving into a care home
- life-sustaining treatment

You apply and register it now, but it's only used if you can't make your own decisions in the future.

Financial decisions

A finance and property lasting power of attorney gives someone you trust the power to make decisions about your money and property, for example:

- paying bills
- managing a bank or building society account
- collecting benefits or a pension
- selling your home

These powers can be used at any time, but only if you say it's ok.

Lasting power of attorney

The 2 minute summary

- It's a myth that close family or friends can automatically make decisions on your behalf if you need them to
- A lasting power of attorney means someone you trust can quickly, easily and legally step in
- You keep control by deciding **WHO** can speak for you, **WHEN** they can speak for you, and **WHAT** they can say
- It's not just about money – your choices about your health and care also need protecting
- If things are straightforward, you don't need to seek legal advice
- Registering a lasting power of attorney is probably easier and cheaper than you think. Depending on your circumstances, it can even be completely free

What to do next

Talk to someone you trust today about creating a lasting power of attorney. Or, if you'd like to know more:

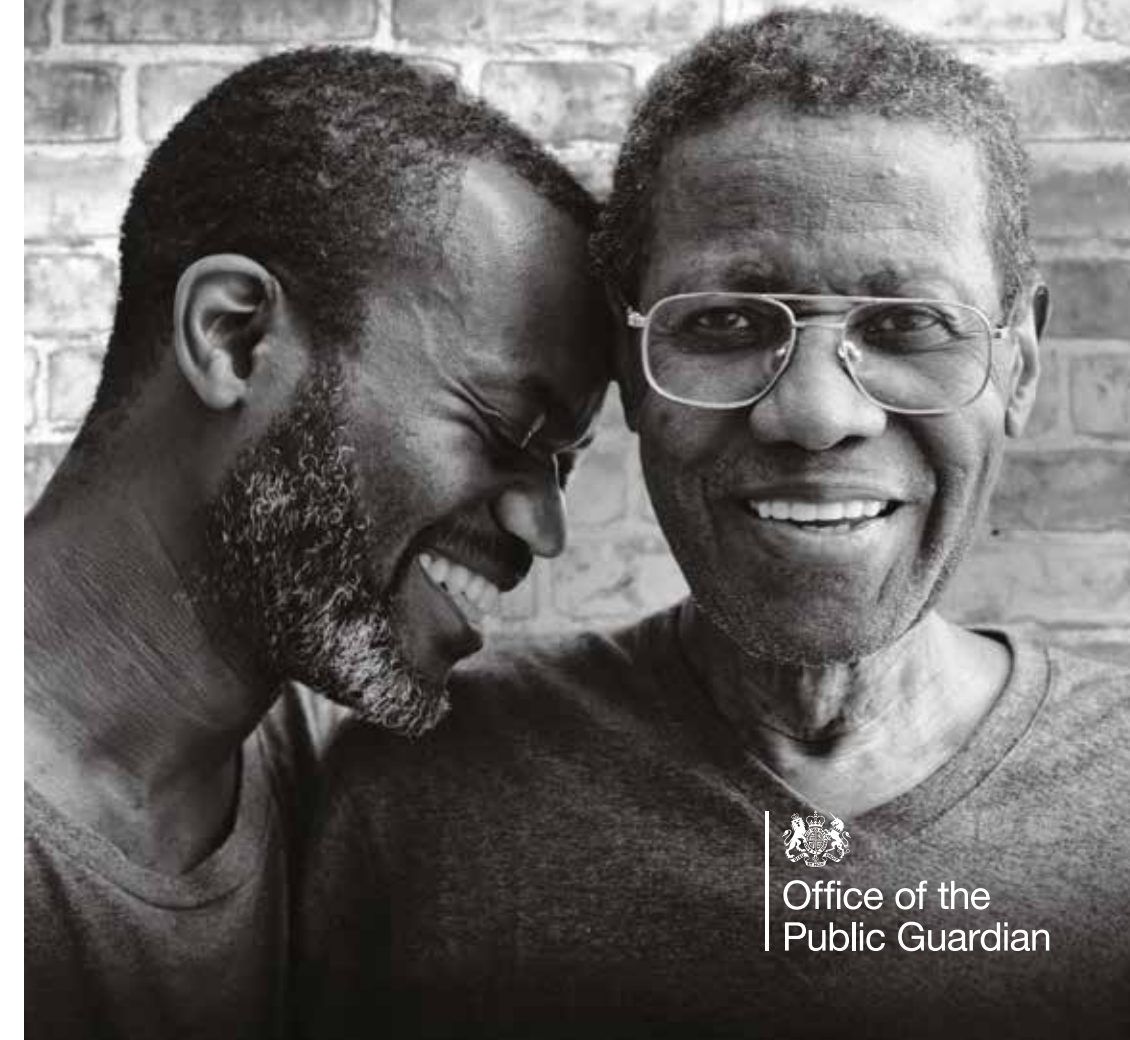
Visit gov.uk/power-of-attorney
or call **0300 456 0300**



Office of the
Public Guardian

Lasting power of attorney

If you lose the power to make certain decisions, a lasting power of attorney keeps those decisions with the people you trust.



Office of the
Public Guardian

Who will speak for you when you can't speak for yourself?

If you lose the power to make certain decisions, a lasting power of attorney (LPA) lets people you trust quickly, easily and legally step in.

Along with lots of other people, you may think your partner or close family members can automatically make decisions for you if you're not able to. This is not the case.

If they had to pay your bills or make a choice about your medical treatment they would struggle without the legal authority to do so.

True or False?

“If a couple have a joint bank account and one person can't make decisions for themselves, their partner can legally make decisions for them.”

This is false, but 73%* of people think it is true.

“In hospital, your next of kin always get the final say in treatment decisions if you can't make them for yourself.”

This is false, but 72%* of people think it is true.

*NatGen Survey of 2000 people 2017.

A lasting power of attorney makes it easier for the people you trust to support you and, if needed, act for you when you may need it most. It could be temporary help to cover a short hospital stay, or longer-term support to manage decisions around your health and care.

An LPA not only gives you a voice - it protects your choices.

How to apply for a lasting power of attorney

Step 1

Involve the people you trust

First, choose a person you feel confident will carry out your wishes. This doesn't have to be a spouse or family member, but make sure it's someone you really trust. You can name more than one person if you want, as long as they're over 18 and fully understand the role they'll be doing.

Be sure you take the time to talk things through with them properly. It's important they know the choices that you would make – and when you would wish them to step in. Remember, you have control over this.



Step 2

Decide which LPA is right for you

There are two different types of lasting power of attorney:

- one to cover finances – such as running your bank account, paying your bills and collecting your pension
- and one to cover health and care – such as your medical treatment and living conditions

We recommend you get both so you're covered for every eventuality.

Step 3

Make an application and get registered

To get started, you can either complete the application forms on our website gov.uk/power-of-attorney, or download them, print them off and fill them out by hand.

It's easy to apply online – with help built in at every step. If you're having difficulty or don't have access to a computer, simply contact us and we can post the forms to you. Or alternatively, see if someone can help you.

Once completed, get your forms signed, enclose your payment (if you're not paying online) and post everything to the Office of the Public Guardian to be registered. Then in 8-10 weeks, we'll send the registered forms back to you for safekeeping.

How much will it cost?

It usually costs £82 to register each lasting power of attorney. However, you may be able to reduce this by 50%, or get it for free if you earn less than £12,000 a year, or if you receive certain benefits.

To see if you're entitled to any reductions and apply for them, download and fill in the application form that you will find on our website gov.uk/power-of-attorney or call **0300 456 0300**.