

Lasting Powers of Attorney

Making a Will is one thing but what if something happens to you during your lifetime?

- Most people acknowledge that is it important to organise their affairs in the event of their death, which is why so many people make a Will these days.
- However, relatively few make similar provision to organise their affairs should they become unable to look after themselves during their lifetime an ever increasing possibility given the advances in medical care.
- We can produce a Legal Document called a PROPERTY AND AFFAIRS LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (PFALPA) This enables you to appoint a person or people (max. 4) of your choice to look after your financial affairs in the event of mental incapacity, perhaps due to old age, illness or accident.
- In addition, we can also produce a HEALTH AND WELFARE LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY (HWLPA) which enables you to appoint somebody (max. 4) of your choice to deal with your personal and medical affairs, rather than your financial affairs, if you are unable to manage them yourself.
- It is crucial these arrangements are made when you are fit and healthy as the Law states that such Powers cannot be installed after the event, which can leave families with all sorts of potential care and medical problems.
- You can choose whether your PFALPA comes into force straight away, or only if you are mentally (and/ or physically) incapable of managing your finances. An HWLPA can only be used once you have lost capacity to make decisions yourself.
- Neither document can be used until it is registered with the Courts. You and whoever you elect to be told of the registration are notified at that time and can object to the registration of the document.
- Like your Will, a PFALPA and a HWLPA can be updated at any time should your circumstances change.

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