



## Support sheet – Lasting Power of Attorney

### Description

A lasting power of attorney (LPA) is a legal document that lets a person (the ‘donor’) appoint one or more people (known as ‘attorneys’) to help them make decisions or to make decisions on their behalf.

This gives the person more control over what happens to them if they have an accident or an illness and cannot make their own decisions (i.e., they ‘lack mental capacity’).

A person must be 18 or over and have mental capacity (the ability to make their own decisions) when they make their LPA.

### Key elements

- In England and Wales, there are two types of LPAs which deal with entirely different aspects of your life: Property and Financial Affairs, and Health and Welfare
- It is recommended that at least two attorneys are appointed. For example, the person’s spouse or partner and the second a daughter or son
- LPAs can be temporary or permanent depending on the person’s situation
- An LPA is made either online or using paper forms. They need to be signed by the person completing the LPA, the attorney/s and witnesses
- The LPA must be registered or the LPA will be invalid

### Associated links/documents

How to make, register or end a lasting power of attorney: <https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney>

Managing affairs for someone else: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/family/looking-after-people/managing-affairs-for-someone-else/>