

WHY MAKE LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY ARRANGEMENTS?

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

- LPAs are often put in place at the same time as a Will. A Will ensures your assets are dealt with in the way that you wish, after you die. An LPA protects you if you're still alive, but you've had an accident, serious illness or age-related issues, which affect your mental capacity.
- Having an LPA in place is crucial for the protection of your rights and assets, should you no longer be able to make important financial and healthcare decisions by, and for, yourself.
- An LPA can ensure that you continue to get the best care for your health, your finances and your assets, when you're not in a position to make those decisions for yourself.

What happens if I haven't made Lasting Power of Attorney arrangements?

- Without an LPA, if you can no longer make decisions for yourself, immediate decisions about your finances or healthcare cannot be taken by a spouse or loved one. Instead, your family or friends will have to apply to The Court of Protection, and The Court will appoint a "Deputy" to make the decisions.
- The Deputy Appointment process is often lengthy, and costly to you; it can easily run into thousands of pounds. Decisions made by the Deputy may not be ones that you wanted them to make. You and your loved-ones, may be frustrated by the decisions the Deputy makes.

What's involved in making Lasting Power of Attorney arrangements?

- It's quite straightforward. First, you decide who you'd like to act as your Attorneys. This is usually your spouse or partner, and at least one other person, whom you know well, and trust to act in your best interests, when the time comes.
- There are two types of LPA to help you. One deals specifically with your health, such as the provision of healthcare support. The other deals with your finances, such as money matters involving savings or investments, claiming benefits etc.

For more information about making Lasting Power of Attorney arrangements, please contact us. We'll put you in touch with our professional Estate Planning Consultant, who will be happy to discuss your requirements with you. They will usually meet you at your home, at a time to suit you, which means that you can arrange everything at your convenience.

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