



Lasting Powers of Attorney

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If you do not have a Power of Attorney in place and you lose capacity to make decisions for yourself, an application to the Court for a Deputy Order is likely to be required which can be very expensive, take several months to be granted and can place a significant burden on the person appointed by the Court.

There are two types of Lasting Powers of Attorney:

Property and Financial Affairs Lasting Power of Attorney which allows your Attorney(s) to have authority to deal with property and finances as you direct while you remain able to deal with these matters yourself, and then to take over matters for you should you lose mental capacity to do so.

Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney which allows your Attorney to make decisions about your health and care matters on your behalf, only when you no longer have the mental capacity to do so yourself. This can include, if you so wish, the giving or refusing consent to life sustaining treatment in certain circumstances.

How can we help?

Powers of Attorney are important documents and you need to think carefully about who you trust to make decisions about your finances or your health and care. You can appoint more than one Attorney and care needs to be taken about how that appointment works as getting it wrong can cause problems when your

Attorneys come to start acting for you. You may also want to give thought to having replacement Attorneys and again, careful advice is required to ensure the appointment of replacements takes effect as you wish.

You may want to include instructions to your Attorneys about how they should manage your affairs, or an indication of your wishes with regard to medical or end of life treatment. Our team of experienced, qualified lawyers can talk everything through with you and advise you on the best manner in which to set up your Powers of Attorney, and ensure appropriate wording is included to best achieve your aims and wishes.

We are experienced in managing the financial affairs of clients and can be appointed on a professional basis as your Attorneys for property and financial affairs if this is something you would like.

Enduring and Business Powers of Attorney

Enduring Powers of Attorney made before 1 October 2007 continue to be effective and we can assist in the registration of these at such time as the person who made the document loses capacity. Enduring Powers of Attorney only cover your financial affairs and we recommend taking advice on making a Lasting Power of Attorney in its place, and also to deal with your health and care.

We are also able to advise on more bespoke Powers of Attorney for business owners, or General Powers of Attorney which may be required either for a short period of time or to provide authority for completion of a specific transaction.

Contact Hart Reade

If you wish to speak to any of our team, please call us on **01323 727321**, visit our website **www.hartreade.co.uk** or email us on **info@hartreade.co.uk**.

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This information sheet is intended to be a summary only and should not be treated as a comprehensive guide and should not be acted on without qualified legal advice. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Hart Reade and we will be happy to assist.

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