

The 2 minute summary

- it's not true 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 and easily 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.

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:

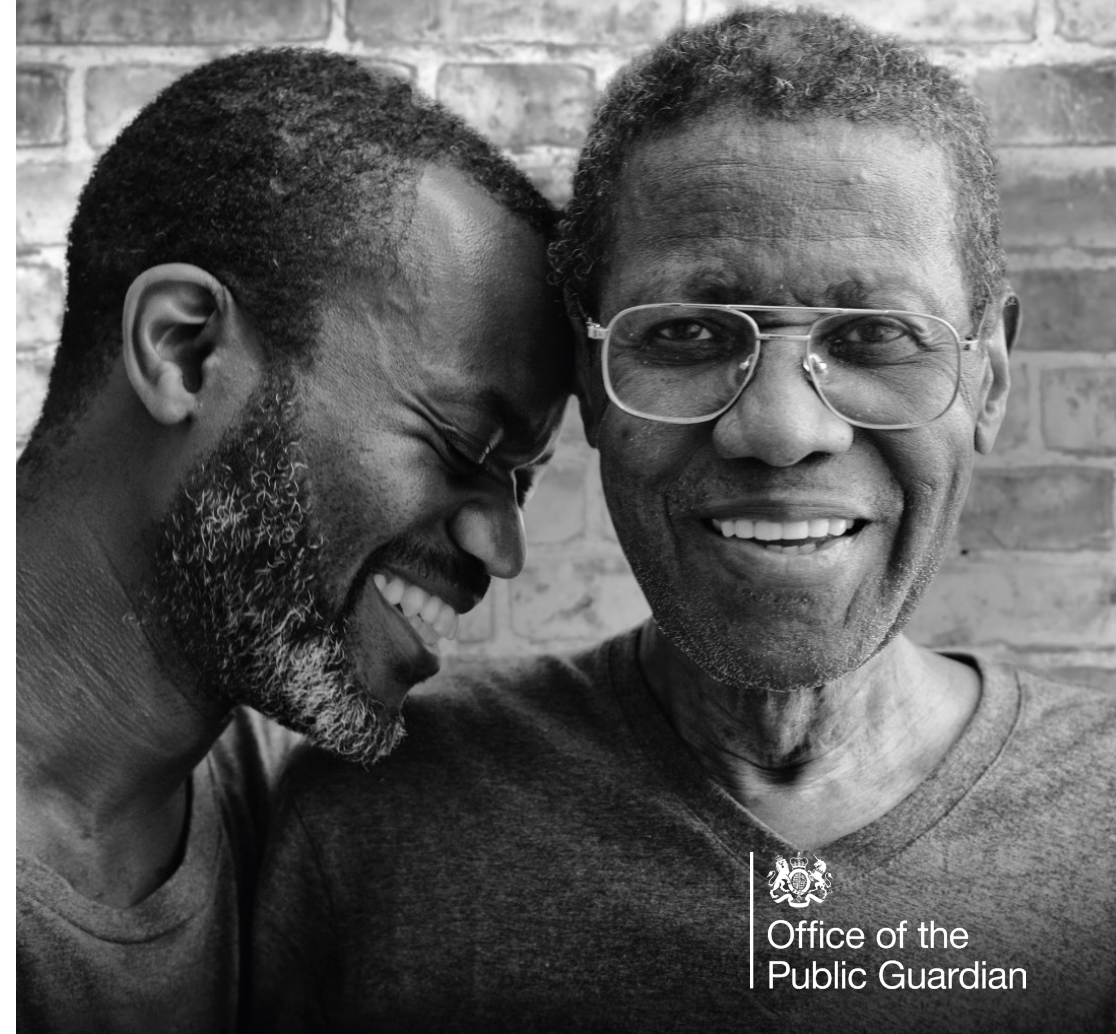
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Office of the
Public Guardian

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 speaks for you if you can't speak for yourself?

A lasting power of attorney makes it easier for the people you trust to support you when you need it most. It could be to help with decisions about finances during a short hospital stay, or support to manage decisions about your health and care in the longer-term.

You may think your partner or close family members can make decisions for you if you're not able to, but this is not the case. If they had to pay your bills or make a choice about your medical treatment, they would need legal authority to do so.

A lasting power of attorney lets people you trust quickly and easily step in when you need it most. It 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. Make sure it's someone you trust.

Step 2

Decide which lasting power of attorney 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
- one to cover health and welfare, such as your medical treatment and living conditions

Think about both types of LPA.

Step 3

Make an application and get registered

Go to [gov.uk/power-of-attorney](https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney) and choose to:

- start your application online with guidance at every step or
- download, print and fill in the forms by hand.

How much will it cost?

It costs £82 to register each lasting power of attorney, so registering both costs £164. However, you may be able to reduce this by 50%, if your gross annual income is less than £12,000 per year. You may not need to pay a fee at all if you receive certain means-tested benefits.

See if you're entitled to a reduction of the fee and apply for one alongside your LPA application by downloading the application form on our website.