

## 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. Depending on your circumstances, there may not even be a charge

## 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:

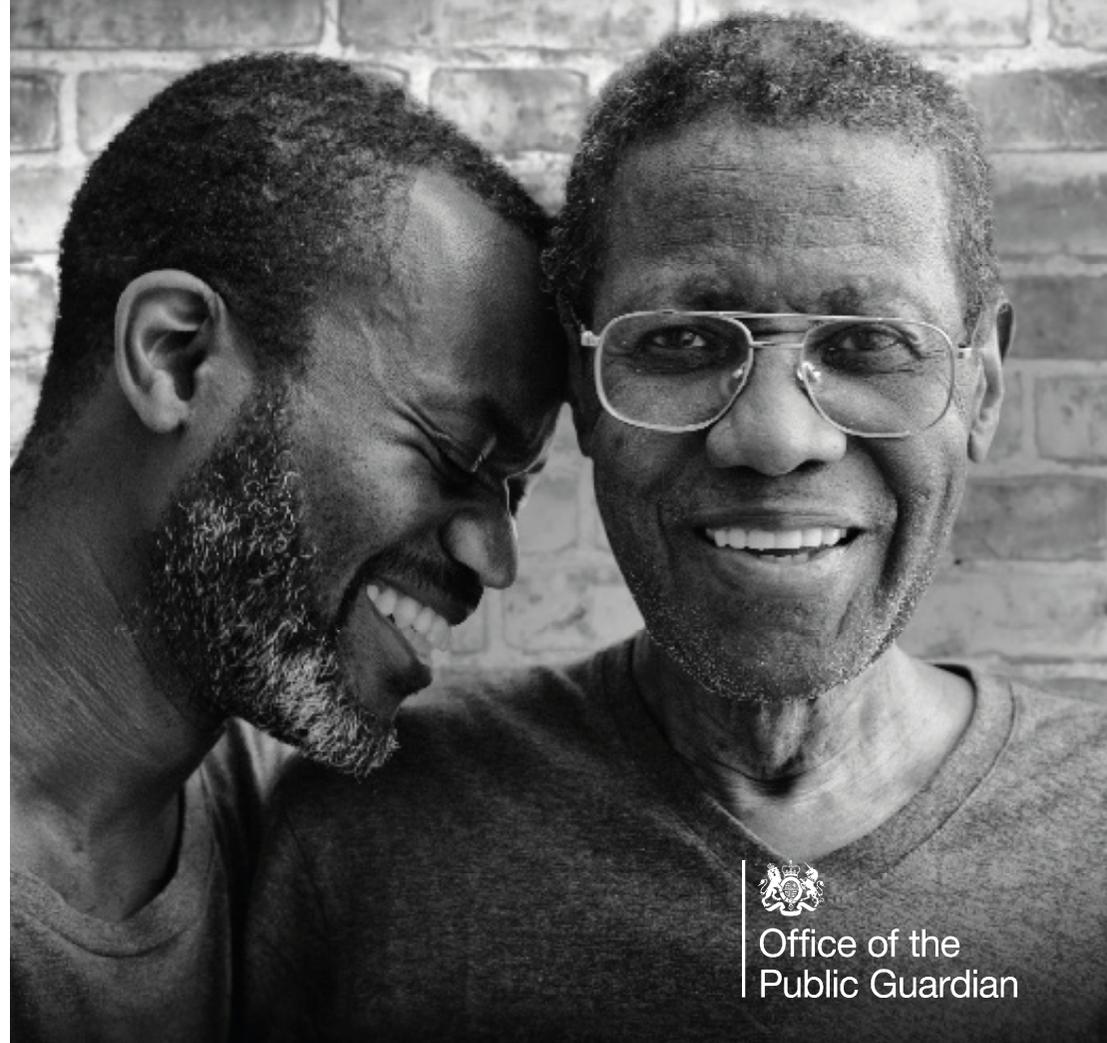
Visit [powerofattorney.campaign.gov.uk](https://powerofattorney.campaign.gov.uk)



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 temporary help to cover a short hospital stay, or longer-term support to manage decisions around your health and care.

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

We recommend you get both.

## Step 3

### Make an application and get registered

Go to [gov.uk/power-of-attorney](https://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 usually costs £82 to register each lasting power of attorney. However, you may be able to reduce this by 50%, or there may not be a charge if you earn less than £12,000 a year, or receive certain benefits.

To see if you're entitled to a reduction, and apply for one, download and fill in the application form on our website.