

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

People who make Wills know that, unfortunately, they will always come into effect eventually – after all death is one of the few certainties in life.

We all hope that we will retain our physical and mental abilities throughout our lives and will not need assistance, while we are alive, to look after ourselves.

Unfortunately, for a large number of people, this is not the case. Disability can strike at any time and this can be very sudden, for example through stroke or heart attack. We can suddenly be left unable to look after our financial and legal affairs and this is where a Power of Attorney can help greatly.

A Power of Attorney allows you to appoint someone, in advance, to act on your behalf if this should ever prove necessary, the most common reason being mental disability. A Power of Attorney is a straightforward document, that, you and your proposed attorneys can sign while you are able to take a rational view of your circumstances. Although it is a completely separate document from a Will, it is often completed with a Will.

If a Power of Attorney is not prepared and you unfortunately become unable to look after your affairs, then the Court of Protection would need to be applied to for authority to act on your behalf. This is a longwinded, complicated and expensive process, which could be avoided.

Our strong recommendation therefore is that you consider preparing a Lasting Power of Attorney. Ideally, both a Health & Welfare version *and* a Financial & Property version.

It's reasonably easy to do online these days - the Office of the Public Guardian have really improved the process. <https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/make-lasting-power>

The benefit of that is you have no cost - it's free to do.

There is still the registration fee of £82 per LPA though, so if doing both (Health & Welfare + Financial & Property) that's £164 - <https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney/register>
And of course, if doing for two people, that's £328 - this is registration fee payable directly to the OPG, nothing to do with GLFC.

Let me know if you wish to DIY as above, or if you want our help.

If you want me to be involved, you'll find the prices on the fee sheet.