



YOUR WILLS TEAM

Lasting Power of Attorney – Health & Welfare

1. What is a Health & Welfare LPA?

A Health & Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) allows you to appoint people you trust to make decisions about your health and personal welfare if you lose the capacity to make them yourself. This could cover decisions about medical treatment, where you live, and the type of care you receive. Unlike the financial LPA, it only takes effect once you are unable to make your own decisions.

2. When can it be used?

This type of LPA can only be used when you no longer have the mental capacity to make the relevant decision yourself. As long as you can still make and communicate decisions, you remain in control. Your attorneys step in only when you cannot make decisions for yourself.

3. Decisions your attorneys can make

Your attorneys will be able to make a wide range of decisions, including:

- Where you live and who provides your day-to-day care
- Your daily routine, such as diet, activities, and clothing
- Medical treatment and ongoing care
- Moving into a care home if needed

Their authority can be wide-ranging, but you can set limits or guidance.

4. Life-sustaining treatment decisions

A key part of a Health & Welfare LPA is whether you want your attorneys to have the authority to make life-sustaining treatment decisions. This includes decisions about resuscitation, life support, and similar interventions. You can either give your attorneys this authority, or state that you prefer doctors to make these decisions.

5. Choosing your attorneys

Your attorneys should be people you trust completely, as they will make very personal decisions about your care and welfare. You may choose family, close friends, or professionals. You can appoint more than one attorney and specify whether they act jointly (always together) or jointly and severally (together or independently).

6. Discussing your wishes in advance

Although an LPA gives your attorneys the legal authority to decide, it is vital to talk to them about your wishes and values in advance. This helps them make decisions that reflect what you would have wanted. You can also include preferences and instructions in the document itself.

7. Practical steps to setting up your Health & Welfare LPA

To create this LPA, you will need to complete the official forms and register the document with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). Registration is essential before the LPA can be used. You will also need a certificate provider—someone independent who confirms you understand what you are doing and are not under pressure.