



ENDURING POWER OF ATTORNEY FACT SHEET

Choosing who will speak and advocate for you if you are unable

What is an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPOA)?

An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document that allows you to appoint one or more trusted people (called your attorney/s) to make decisions on your behalf if you lose the capacity to do so yourself.

Your attorney can be authorised to make decisions about your:

Personal matters: such as where you live, who you see, and the services you receive.

Health care: including medical and dental treatment.

Financial matters: such as managing your bank accounts, paying bills, or selling property.

Why is it important to have one?

You may not always be able to make or communicate decisions due to illness, injury, or age-related conditions. An EPOA ensures that someone you trust can step in and manage your affairs if this happens.

Without an EPOA:

There is no automatic legal authority for others to act on your behalf.

Your family or friends may have to apply to a tribunal to be appointed as your legal decision-maker, which can be stressful, costly, and time-consuming.

You lose control over who will be making decisions for you.

Who should I appoint?

Choosing your attorney is an important decision. Your attorney must be over 18 and capable of understanding the responsibilities of the role. It should be someone you trust completely to act in your best interests.

Ask yourself:

Do I trust this person to make important decisions for me?

Do they understand my values and preferences?

Are they capable and reliable?

You may appoint more than one attorney and decide whether they must act jointly or independently. You can also appoint backup (successor) attorneys in case your first choice is unable to act.

When does the EPOA come into effect?

Personal and health matters – Only when you lose capacity.

Financial matters – You choose when it begins. It can start immediately, from a specific date, or only if you lose capacity.

Can I change or cancel it later?

Yes. As long as you still have capacity, you can revoke or change your EPOA at any time. It's also important to review your EPOA if your relationships or circumstances change (e.g., marriage, divorce, or the passing of an appointed attorney).

How can Alexander Law help?

At Alexander Law, we can:

- Help you understand your legal rights and options.
- Guide you through appointing the right attorney/s.
- Draft and properly witness your Enduring Power of Attorney.
- Ensure the document reflects your wishes and complies with legal requirements.

We offer a free 30-minute consultation to discuss your needs and help you get started.



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