

Power of Attorney



What is Power of Attorney?

- A Power of Attorney is a document which allows you to plan for the future should you become incapable of making decisions about your own affairs.
- You can appoint someone you trust – like a family member, a friend or a professional advisor – and you can say what decisions they can make on your behalf.
- Your Attorney can make decisions about your welfare, for example about the care you may require, and also about your finances, for example helping you pay your bills.

Why do we need a Power of Attorney?

- Life is unpredictable. We can become ill or have an accident at any time which could leave us unable to make our own decisions.
- Creating a Power of Attorney is a good idea for everyone, whatever your age or health. It is not just helpful for elderly or ill people.
- If we lose the ability to make decisions for ourselves and we have not appointed a Power of Attorney, then it can be costly and challenging for those around you to get permission to make decisions in your best interest. Decisions may then be made by people you have not chosen.
- Creating a Power of Attorney puts you in control.

How do I create a Power of Attorney?

- Anyone can create a Power of Attorney as long as they have ‘capacity’.
- To have capacity someone needs to be able to make, communicate and remember their decisions and this ability needs to be confirmed in a certificate signed by a UK medical doctor or a solicitor.

What support is available?

There are dedicated Power of Attorney Surgeries located at the following centres:

- VOCAL in Edinburgh – 0131622 6666
- VOCAL in Midlothian – 0131 663 6869
- Carers of East Lothian – 0131 665 0135
- Carers of West Lothian – 01506 448000

You can also visit www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney for more information or to make, register or end a lasting power of attorney.



