What is a Lasting Power of Attorney?

A Lasting Power of Attorney ('LPA') is a legal document that lets you appoint one or more trusted people as attorneys to help you make both healthcare and financial decisions or to make decisions on your behalf.This gives you more control over what happens to you if you have an accident or an illness and can't make your own decisions in the future.

Property and Financial Affairs

A Property and Financial Affairs LPA gives your attorneys the power to act on your behalf at your direction, for example if you are physically unable to act or would like someone to help you in dealing with your affairs as you get older. The power will also remain in force if you are no longer mentally capable of dealing with these matters for yourself and can no longer give your instructions about how your attorneys should act.

Health & Welfare

A Health & Welfare LPA allows you to appoint someone who you trust to make decisions about your medical care and physical well-being which is limited to circumstances when you are no longer able to speak up for yourself. It is also possible to give your attorneys the authority to give or refuse consent to life-sustaining treatment on your behalf.

When and why should I make an LPA?

LPAs can only be prepared while you are well enough to understand the documents that you are signing and therefore need to be thought about carefully, ideally long before they are actually needed. If you do not put an LPA in place and you are no longer able to deal with your affairs, an application has to be made to the Court of Protection to appoint someone to act on your behalf. This is a costly and time-consuming exercise and could potentially lead to someone being appointed to manage your affairs who you would not want to have such control over your life.

What should I do now?

If you would like our help with making Lasting Powers of Attorney, please contact:

Karen Perugini

01722 447430 | kperugini@novumlaw.com