



The Professional Will Writer

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Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs)

A quick guide for professionals supporting vulnerable adults

Many people reach care, support, or professional services without LPAs in place.

Where basic mental capacity remains, it may still be possible to act — even if capacity is fluctuating or support is required.

Why LPAs matter

Without LPAs:

- Families may be unable to manage finances or make welfare decisions
- Delays, disputes, and safeguarding concerns increase
- The Court of Protection may become involved unnecessarily

LPAs allow individuals to **retain control** by choosing who can act for them if capacity is later lost.

It may *not* be too late

Capacity is **decision-specific and time-specific**.

A diagnosis, vulnerability, or need for care does **not** automatically rule out LPAs.

Early advice can:

- Preserve autonomy
- Reduce conflict
- Avoid deputyship where possible

How referrals are handled

- Informal, non-pressured discussions
- Capacity-led assessment before any documents are prepared
- Clear explanation if LPAs are not appropriate
- Safeguarding-aware — not sales-driven

The aim is to help where the law allows, **not** to push paperwork.

When to consider a referral

- Early cognitive decline or fluctuating capacity
- Increasing reliance on others for decisions
- Concerns about who can act if things deteriorate
- Family uncertainty or emerging disputes

Referring is simple

- No confidential clinical or financial information required initially
- You may refer anonymously if preferred
- Advice can be sought even if you are unsure LPAs are still possible.