

A Guide to getting the Welfare, Medical and Financial arrangements you want in later life



shoosmiths

As we grow older our ability to manage matters for ourselves, or even to say what we prefer, sometimes decreases.

Taking time to plan ahead for later life can help achieve the lifestyle you want, and assist relatives and carers should they need to make difficult decisions on your behalf.

When planning ahead:

You need to consider:	Shoosmiths can help you by:
<p>Making an Ordinary Power of Attorney</p> <p>This is a legal document in which you give someone else the ability to manage your financial affairs, perhaps because it is difficult for you to get out and about to do it yourself.</p> <p>You decide who to appoint as your attorney. The power to act on your behalf ends should you become mentally incapable.</p>	<p>Advising, and helping you complete the document, and in some situations being your attorney if you do not have a relative or friend that you wish to choose.</p>
<p>Making a Lasting Power of Attorney</p> <p>This goes further than an ordinary power of attorney.</p> <p>It carries on even after you have become unable to make your own decisions and, if you choose, can have wider uses.</p> <p>It is written in two parts: Part 1 gives your attorney power to deal with your financial affairs and, if you choose to complete it. Part 2 gives your attorney powers and instructions concerning your future welfare and medical treatment. You could for instance, if you wish, give instructions about when to refuse consent to life sustaining treatment.</p>	<p>Ensuring the Lasting Power of Attorney is correctly written.</p> <p>Providing the certificate that confirms you fully understand the implications and are making the document of your own free will which is needed to make the document valid.</p>
<p>When to Register a Lasting Power of Attorney</p> <p>It is only when a Lasting Power of Attorney is registered that the attorney can start to use the powers. When you make it 'live' is your decision.</p>	<p>Registering the Lasting Power of Attorney with the Office of the Public Guardian for you.</p>
<p>Whether you are receiving all of the State Benefits that you are entitled to</p> <p>Benefits and entitlements are often changed so it is important to check regularly.</p>	

Where you would prefer to live in later life and how you will pay for any future accommodation and care which you may need

With care home fees costing anything between £450 and £1,500-a-week, it is important to plan ahead.

Making you aware of the options such as NHS health care funding to pay nursing home fees or raising money from property which you already own, and discussing with you what would be best.

Challenging any NHS funding decision which conflicts with NHS eligibility criteria.

If you are married or in a civil partnership preparing a Will for you which is tax efficient and ensures that as a couple you use the full inheritance tax exempt amount (currently £624,000) and keep the amount which has to be paid to HM Revenue & Customs to the minimum.

Writing down key information and your preferences

Providing a free checklist with space for you to fill in information which may be useful to those around you, which you can complete in your own time, and alter as often as you like.

This is not a legal document. It is just a convenient way of letting family and close friends know of arrangements you have already made, where things are and what you would like to happen.

For more information please contact:



Suzanne Evans
Solicitor

T 08700 863340

E suzanne.evans@shoosmiths.co.uk