

General Powers of Attorney

General Powers of Attorney enable you to authorise a person or persons to do anything you may have the power to do yourself (under s.10 of the Powers of Attorney Act 1971).

The person or persons you appoint are called your Attorney(s).

The authority you give to your Attorney(s) can only be exercised whilst you have the mental capacity to carry out the particular task the Attorney(s) is authorised to do.

If you die or become mentally incapable, the Attorney's authority comes to an end.

There are certain exceptions and the General Power of Attorney cannot be used by the Attorney(s):

- To act as a trustee (co-ownership of a house involves trusteeship)
- To act as a personal representative or executor

A more complex General Power of Attorney may be required setting out the Attorney(s) authority in full if the Attorney will need to deal with any foreign assets or property.