

## The young 'should consider powers of attorney'

The government wants a broader range of people including the young to consider lasting powers of attorney (LPA).

LPAs (the predecessor of which was the Enduring Power of Attorney - EPA's) are legal documents that enable you to nominate someone you trust to make decisions about your welfare and financial affairs if you lose mental capacity in the future. Introduced in October 2007 they offer more flexibility than the outgoing EPA.



There are more than 700,000 LPAs registered in the UK. But more than 90% of them are for people aged over 60, and more than half are for people over the age of 80.

Justice Minister Lord McNally said: "Making a lasting power of attorney is **as important** as making a will - it can save people unnecessary trauma and expense and makes sure their own wishes are followed whatever happens. It is crucial for people of all ages, yet very few under-60s have one registered and we need that to change."

The government is now consulting on ways to improve the system of registering LPAs. It has put forward a number of proposals including digitising the application process, simplifying the forms and improving the supervision of those appointed to manage people's affairs. The new proposals are expected to come into effect within the next 12 months.

They follow a reduction in the LPA application fee from £130 to £110, which came into effect in October 2013. Please ask for an information leaflet on whether you are eligible for a reduced registration fee or exemption altogether if in receipt of certain State benefits.

LPAs are very important documents which need to be drawn up correctly with expert help from the **English Will Company** we can ensure they fully reflect your wishes and protect your interests. Prices are from £150 per lasting power of attorney and so are a very low cost way helping to ensure that your family are protected at what could be a very distressing time.

**Please contact us if you would like more information about lasting powers of attorney.**