

Enduring Powers of Attorney services



What is an Enduring Power of Attorney?

An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables you to choose a trusted friend, relative or organisation to make important decisions on your behalf, when you need it most.

If for any reason you are unable to make decisions for yourself, your Attorney can look after your legal and financial affairs, your health and the way you live, according to your stated wishes for as long as you need. Enduring Powers of Attorney remain valid until you or the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal (VCAT) revoke them, regardless of changes in your ability to manage your own affairs.



Planning ahead makes a difference for everyone

“It has been much easier dealing with Dad’s deteriorating health knowing his finances are in order and being managed by experts.”

After watching his best friend’s children fighting over his friend’s care and assets, Douglas knew he needed to organise his own affairs. Douglas contacted State Trustees and granted them an Enduring Power of Attorney over his financial and legal affairs. He also discussed with his daughter Felicity how he would like to be taken care of medically, should he become ill. With State Trustees help, he granted Felicity Enduring Power of Attorney over his medical care.

When Douglas suffered a major stroke, having an Enduring Powers of Attorney in place made managing his situation a lot easier. State Trustees stepped in, immediately taking care of all of Douglas’s expenses. They managed all of his financial commitments, both large and small. When the time came to move into a nursing home, State Trustees helped with the sale of his home, and managed the proceeds.

Felicity knew exactly how Douglas wanted to be treated medically, and was able to quickly arrange treatment for his stroke in line with his wishes. With State Trustees on board, Felicity didn’t have to worry about paperwork and her father’s expenses. She was able to focus on managing her father’s every-day care.

No one was expecting Douglas to suffer a stroke, but with the help of State Trustees, he was prepared.



Enduring Powers of Attorney can help those you trust help you

Why should I organise my Enduring Powers of Attorney now?

It is never too early, but it can be too late to organise Enduring Powers of Attorney. They are designed to help you when you are unable to act for yourself. If you don't have a formal arrangement already in place and you have a serious accident or become unwell, it is often impossible to then appoint someone to act on your behalf.

The time to prepare Enduring Powers of Attorney is when you are healthy, aware and in control. By planning ahead of time you know you can rely on your Attorney to step in and help you manage your affairs according to your wishes, when you need it most.

What sort of decisions can my Attorney make for me?

There are three different Enduring Powers of Attorney State Trustees can help you prepare:

- Enduring Power of Attorney Financial: enables you to choose an individual or organisation to look after your financial and legal affairs according to your wishes
- Enduring Power of Attorney Medical Treatment: permits decisions about your health and wellbeing to be made on your behalf if you are unable to make those decisions
- Enduring Power of Guardianship: allows you to choose a trusted friend or family member to make lifestyle decisions for you.

For further information on Enduring Powers of Attorney Medical Treatment or Guardianship, please visit us at statetrustees.com.au/powerofattorney.

How can an Enduring Power of Attorney help me manage my finances today?

State Trustees offers a comprehensive financial management service designed to give you peace of mind and security. When you grant us permission to act as your Attorney, we can help protect and manage all your financial assets on a day-to-day basis, so you don't have to worry about the every day details of managing your money.

We can help you:

- collect your income
- manage your bills
- manage your property
- complete your tax returns
- implement your long-term financial plan.

Why is it important to choose a financial Attorney now?

If, for any reason, you become unable to manage your financial affairs yourself, someone else will need to do it for you. You need to ask yourself who that person should be, and can you be sure they will always act in your best interests?

There are many disadvantages to not having a financial Attorney:

- you might not be able to choose who is responsible for making financial decisions on your behalf
- you might not trust the person who does step in and take control of your finances
- your assets become vulnerable to the integrity of those making decisions on your behalf
- disagreements can arise between family members about your situation and how your affairs are being managed.

Who should have an Enduring Power of Attorney financial?

Regardless of the size of your assets, it makes sense to have an Enduring Power of Attorney for your finances. If you would like to choose who acts on your behalf to make legal or financial decisions for you, should you become unable to, you should have an Enduring Power of Attorney in place.

Who can I choose to be my financial Attorney?

In general, you can appoint anyone you like to act on your behalf, including companies like State Trustees. However, you can only choose an individual to make decisions about your medical treatment or lifestyle.

Many people instinctively choose family members or close friends to be their financial Attorney without considering all their options. You should think realistically about the time and expertise required to manage your finances properly. Although friends and family members will have good intentions and often do want to help, you might be better off appointing a professional organisation, such as State Trustees to act as your financial Attorney.



Appointing the right financial Attorney is important

What should I consider when appointing my Attorney?

Trust is the most important thing many people consider when appointing an Attorney, but it is not the only thing you should think about.

You should ask yourself:

- can you trust your Attorney will carry out your wishes and act in your best interests? Will your Attorney have time to fulfil all your needs?
- how will their role as your Attorney affect other responsibilities or interests they have?
- does your Attorney have the specialised skills or expertise required to carry out the tasks you need them to do?
- can you be sure your Attorney will be alive and competent to act when you need them?
- will you feel comfortable asking your Attorney to act, or will you worry that your requests are demanding or burdensome?

Why should I consider appointing State Trustees as my financial Attorney?

You can rely on us. State Trustees has been helping Victorians for more than 70 years. No matter when you might need us in the future, you can depend on our team of experts to be there. As Attorney for your financial affairs, we act to help protect and manage your finances according to your instructions.

We are independent and our sole focus is on carrying out your wishes. Whether you need help with large transactions, such as selling your family home, or everyday bill paying, we will be happy to listen to you and help.

By choosing State Trustees as your Attorney, you relieve the significant burden of managing your finances from those you care about. You place the responsibility with a trusted team of experts, removing stress and onerous work from those you love.

With State Trustees on your side, you can relax knowing your finances are in capable hands and your interests are protected to the best of our capabilities.

Find out more about how State Trustees can help you

Your wellbeing is important. It has taken you a lifetime to build security, so it makes sense to protect your interests with the help of an experienced team. State Trustees can help you plan ahead, and assist you manage your everyday financial and legal affairs.

For more than 70 years, we have provided Will writing services, Deceased Estate Administration, and managed the finances of those who need our help.



**Find out more about how
State Trustees can help you.**

**Visit us online at statetrustees.com.au,
in person at our offices across Victoria,
or over the phone 03 9667 1110.**

State Trustees

ABN 68 064 593 148 AFSL No. 238037