

# Your life, **your** choice

## Planning for your future by making powers of attorney



You have the right to make your own decisions. But, in the future, you might have an illness or accident that means you can't make decisions about personal or financial matters. You can choose someone **now** to make these types of decisions for you, if this happens.

This person must make decisions that are in your best interests. You should choose someone you trust and who knows you well. This can be a family member or friend. To do this, you can make an enduring power of attorney.





## Making enduring powers of attorney

- ◉ You can only make powers of attorney if you understand what you are doing. This is the law.
- ◉ Complete the enduring power of attorney form. You do not need a lawyer to do this. The Office of the Public Advocate can give you the form for free.
- ◉ You must sign the form in front of two witnesses. They cannot be family members.
- ◉ One of the witnesses must be someone like a doctor, police sergeant or Justice of the Peace.

## Enduring power of attorney for financial and personal matters

Examples of decisions about **personal matters**:

- ◉ where you live
- ◉ what services you use.

Examples of decisions about **financial matters**:

- ◉ using your money to pay your bills
- ◉ using your money to buy things for you
- ◉ selling your house, if you need this to happen.

## Give your attorney information

Your attorney needs information about what they can and cannot do. The Office of the Public Advocate has information for attorneys. Visit [www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au)

## If you change your mind

If you change your mind and want to choose someone else, you can do this by making a new power of attorney.

## For more information

If you have questions you can call:

### Office of the Public Advocate

Phone 1300 309 337

[www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicadvocate.vic.gov.au)

### Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Phone 1800 064 865

[www.vals.org.au](http://www.vals.org.au)

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**Victorian Aboriginal  
Legal Service**

Victorian Legal Services  
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