

What you need to know about an enduring power of attorney

Easy Read version



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About this document



This document is from
Queensland Public Trustee.



We wrote this document to tell you about
an enduring power of attorney (EPOA).



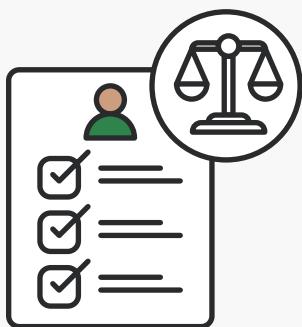
This document is for people
who are over 18 years old.



This document tells you about:

- what an enduring power of attorney and an attorney is
- why you need an enduring power of attorney
- what happens if you do not have an enduring power of attorney
- what you should think about when you choose someone to be your attorney
- how to make an enduring power of attorney.

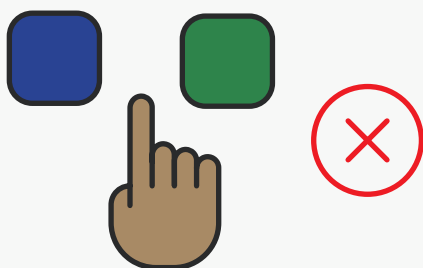
What an enduring power of attorney is



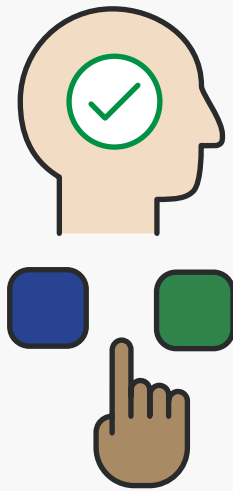
An enduring power of attorney is a legal document.



Legal document means people must follow what it says.



The document is there if you cannot make decisions for yourself.



Making decisions for yourself means:

- you understand what is happening
- you understand the choices you have
- you can decide something without someone telling you what to do
- you can communicate what you decide.

What an enduring power of attorney says



Your enduring power of attorney is about the things that are important to you.



The document says:

- how you want to live your life
- if there are people you want to be part of making decisions about your life.



There are 2 types of decisions that an enduring power of attorney includes.

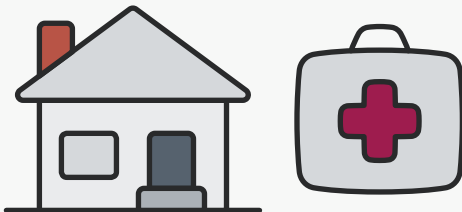
1. Financial decisions



Financial decisions are decisions about your money. They can be about things like:

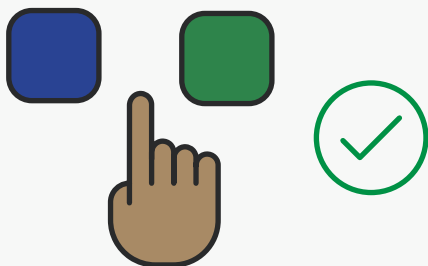
- paying your bills
- managing your tax documents
- managing your bank accounts.

2. Personal and health decisions



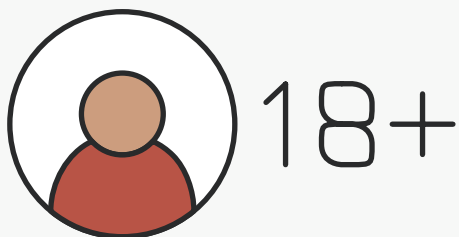
Personal and health decisions can be about:

- where you live and who you live with
- what activities you do
- what health care or other support services you get.



These two types of decisions can only happen for you when you are alive.

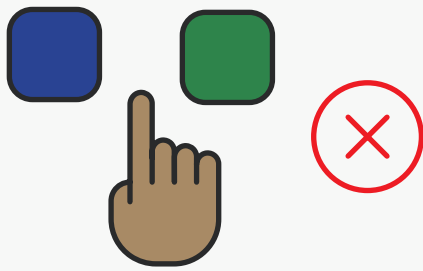
Why you need an enduring power of attorney



Everyone over 18 years old should have an enduring power of attorney.

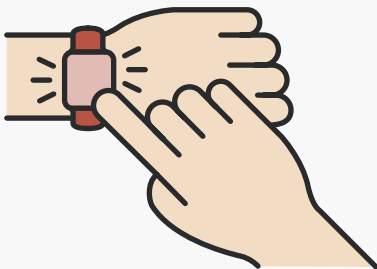


If you cannot make decisions for yourself, someone must follow what you have put in your enduring power of attorney. This person is called an attorney.



You might not be able to make decisions for yourself:

- if you are very sick
- if it is hard to tell others what you think.



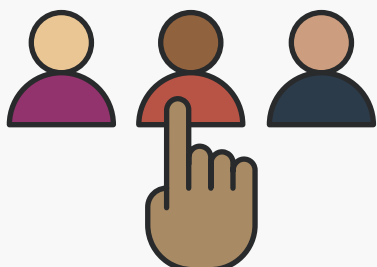
This might last for:

- a short time
- a long time, for example the rest of your life.

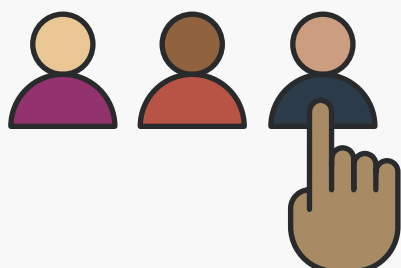
What happens if you do not have an enduring power of attorney



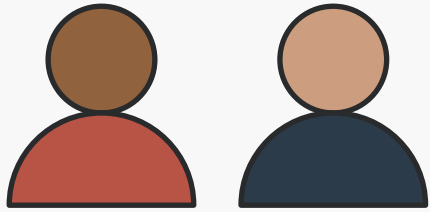
If you cannot make decisions for yourself and you do not have an enduring power of attorney, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) can help.



QCAT can choose someone to make your financial decisions. This person is called an administrator.



QCAT can choose someone to make your personal and health decisions. This person is called a guardian.

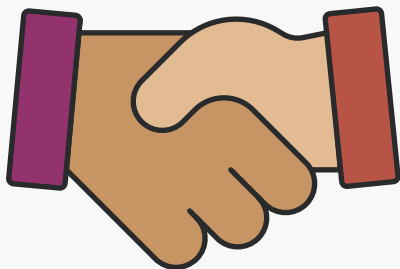


It can take time for an administrator and a guardian to be ready to make decisions for you.

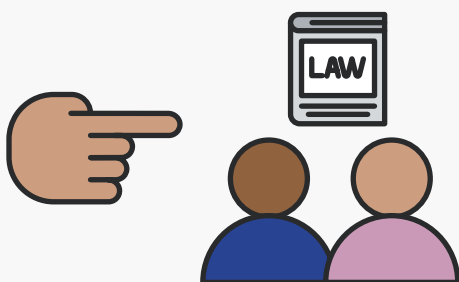


The people QCAT chooses might not be the people you would choose. So, if you make an enduring power of attorney, you can choose who makes decisions for you.

What you should think about when you choose your attorney



You should choose someone you can trust to be your attorney.



You can choose more than one person to share the attorney work.



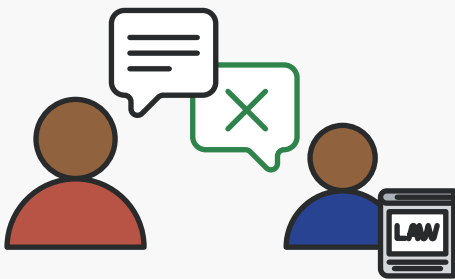
Your attorney needs to:

- be over 18 years old
- say yes to being your attorney
- live near you so they can help you
- understand things like the law and money
- make decisions that are good for you
- keep a record of all their attorney work.

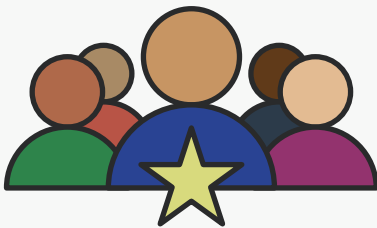


You should also think about:

- if your family will be okay with the attorney you choose
- if there should be rules that say what decisions the attorney can make and cannot make.



The person you choose to be your attorney can say no.



You can also choose an expert to be your attorney, like:

- us at Queensland Public Trustee
- a local lawyer.



A lawyer is an expert who knows about an enduring power of attorney and the rules people must follow.

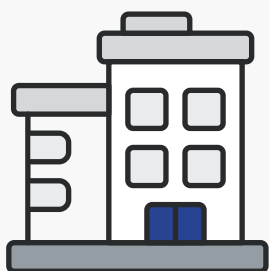


If you choose an expert to be your attorney, you need to pay fees when you cannot make decisions for yourself, and your enduring power of attorney starts.



Queensland Public Trustee can only help with financial decisions. We cannot help with personal or health decisions.

How to make an enduring power of attorney



To make your enduring power of attorney, you can visit:

- us at Queensland Public Trustee
- a local lawyer.



You should also read our other Easy Read document about nominated persons. This information will help when you make your enduring power of attorney. The document is called **What you need to know about nominated persons**.

Contact information

You can contact us to get more information.

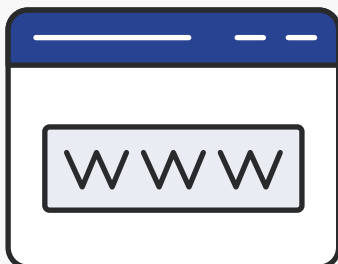
There are many ways to contact us.



Call us

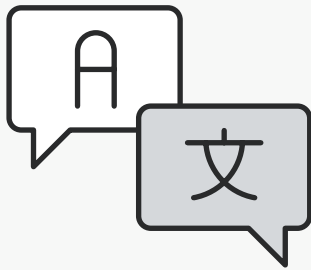
1300 360 044

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