

Protecting future interests today.

Case Study



Betty* had been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and was worried that as her health deteriorated, she would have no say in her care and treatment, and that this would cause arguments within her family.

We advised her that making a lasting power of attorney for health and welfare would help put her mind at rest. This document would allow her to have a hand in decisions that affected her life and health, by expressly stating her wishes while she was able to.

Through a lasting power of attorney, Betty was able to give her daughter the authority to make decisions about her personal welfare, such as:

- ✓ Where she lived
- ✓ What sort of health care she should receive
- ✓ Social activities she would undertake
- ✓ Where she would go on holiday
- ✓ What sort of food she would like to eat
- ✓ Whether or not she would like to receive life-sustaining treatment

Betty was particularly concerned about having treatment against her will, but we explained that the document gave her the option to allow her attorney (her daughter) to refuse medical treatment on her behalf.

We also explained to Betty that her daughter would only have the authority to make these decisions once Betty had lost mental capacity and after the document had been registered with the Office of Public Guardian.

Following her call to the helpline, Betty felt much better informed and was able to plan ahead and make sure her future needs were protected.

If you have any queries about lasting powers of attorney, why not call the Harry Hall legal helpline? Its available to all Gold members with an active policy.

* Names changed to protect the caller's identity

You can contact the helpline **9am to 5:30pm, Monday to Friday** (excluding bank holidays) on **01274 711 111**.