



Safeguarding Finances

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Money Management Team



Money Management Team

The Council's Money Management Service is available to people who are open to Social and Health Care Services and:

- lack capacity around finance
- have no-one suitable to act for them, and where:
- all other options to support them have been explored and discounted.

The team works under the supervision of The Office of the Public Guardian to ensure that peoples' money and property are safeguarded and spent in their best interest, in line with their wishes and beliefs, to ensure the best quality of life for that person.



While we are a last resort service the team provides support to our Social and Health Care colleagues, providing information and signposting to other organisations and charities, ensuring the person gets the help and advice best suited to their needs.



What support is available?

When someone is deemed to lack capacity around money the formal ways to support them are:

- DWP Appointeeship
- Lasting Power of Attorney
- Deputyship



DWP Appointeeship

An appointee has the right to deal with the benefits of someone who is not able to manage their own affairs due to lack of capacity or because they are severely disabled.

Appointee's responsibilities

As an appointee you're responsible for making and maintaining benefit claims. You must:

- sign the benefit claim form
- tell the benefit office about any changes which affect how much the claimant gets
- spend the benefit (which is paid directly to you) in the claimant's best interests
- tell the benefit office if you stop being the appointee, for example the claimant can now manage their affairs

Optional security bond – to protect assets

Application is by phone to the relevant benefit office.

[Become an appointee for someone claiming benefits - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/become-an-appointee)



Lasting Power of Attorney

A power of attorney is a legal document that lets you (the 'donor') appoint one or more people (known as 'attorneys') to help you make decisions or to make decisions on your behalf.

A person can lack capacity to manage their affairs but still have capacity to grant a Power of Attorney

Need a certificate provider to confirm the person understands the purpose and scope of the LPA – this can be a someone with relevant professional skills or someone who has known them personally for more than 2 years.

Optional security bond – to protect assets

Application forms available online at GOV.UK

[Make, register or end a lasting power of attorney - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/make-register-end-lpa)



Deputyship

You can apply to become someone's deputy if they 'lack mental capacity'.

A Deputy is authorised by the Court of Protection to make decisions on a person's behalf.

A deputy can be family or friends. There can be more than 1 deputy.

Assessment of Capacity

Application fee and annual fees charged by the Office of the Public Guardian

Security bond – to protect assets

Applications are online:

[Deputies: make decisions for someone who lacks capacity - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/deputies)



Find out if someone has an attorney, deputy or guardian acting for them

www.gov.uk/find-someones-attorney-deputy-or-guardian

[Find out if someone has an attorney, deputy or guardian acting for them - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/find-someones-attorney-deputy-or-guardian)



Money Health Matters

It is important that everyone takes action to ensure they have measures in place should they be unable to make money decisions themselves in the future. Making a will and choosing a trusted person to make decisions around your money when you are no longer able to, will ensure that your money is in safe hands.

More information about wills and Lasting Power of Attorney is available at



[Making a will: Write your will - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-a-will)

[Make, register or end a lasting power of attorney - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/make-register-or-end-a-lasting-power-of-attorney)



Where to report concerns:

Social & Health Care - 0345 050 7666

[Reporting a safeguarding concern about someone | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

