

Lasting Powers of Attorney – benefits finally recognised

The benefits of Lasting Powers of Attorney are at last becoming acknowledged, even if it has taken national television and radio stations to recently feature these in a positive fashion to persuade the public.

In a recent Radio 4 Interview Bridget Prentice a Minister from the Ministry of Justice said that she had asked the Law Society to tell its members that when people visit solicitors to make Wills they should also be encouraged to make Lasting Powers of Attorney. Also on a recent BBC 1 “One Show” there was again confirmation of the benefits of Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Barry Matthews Head of Wilson Browne’s Private Client Department, comments “it is very nice that people are finally coming out extolling the virtues of Lasting Powers of Attorney, but we have been encouraging clients to sign Lasting Power of Attorney, and before them Enduring Powers of Attorney for many years, as both documents can be of extreme value”.

The only major problem with the present Lasting Power of Attorney is the bureaucracy involved in that if you go on the internet you have 205 pages which you are supposed to wade

through, and then sign either or both of the 25 page documents, with a Certificate Provider or two to confirm that you have mental capacity and are not under any undue influence or duress.

Notwithstanding the bureaucratic nightmare of achieving the end result, when a Lasting Power of Attorney is in place it is an extremely useful document and in certain circumstances can be even more advisable to have than a Will, which in itself is almost an essential document for everyone to have in place.”

For an easy to understand Guide to LPAs contact Barry Matthews at Wilson Browne LLP on 01536 410041 or email him at wb.pc@wilsonbrowne.co.uk.