

Life on the High Street 4

I hope you haven't had sleepless nights wondering why a General Power of Attorney ceases to be effective if you lose your mental capacity. The reason is that you have to retain the ability to revoke it and if you've lost your capacity to do that the Power is automatically invalid. However you can make a Lasting Power of Attorney which is as described 'on the tin' and is what everyone needs to have in place to cover every eventuality for their entire life (unless, as I said last week, you already have an Enduring Power of Attorney). There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one to cover your property and financial affairs and another to deal with your personal welfare. You don't have to make both but even thinking about these things (which we'd all rather not) is a good exercise in being prepared and hopefully saving your family or friends from unnecessary difficulties should life taken an unforeseen turn. I'll write more about Lasting Power of Attorneys in a few weeks but meanwhile for more information you can always call me.

DHC