POWERS OF ATTORNEY: WHAT CONSUMERS NEED TO KNOW



CHOOSING YOUR ATTORNEY

 Your Attorney must manage your property and f nances for your benef t and acccc
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be able to follow the Attorney's instructions.

SETTING UP A POA

While there are online and other generally-available forms and templates for a POA – and some banks p

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(this article only discusses POAs for property and f nances).

WHAT AN ATTORNEY DOES

The person to whom you give your POA (your Attorney) has a duty to act in your best interest. You can set out in the POA document the types of transactions that you want your Attorney to do for you or insert restrictions as to what they should not do. Your Attorney is required to keep detailed records of the transactions they complete on your behalf.

Quick tip: It's important to understand that the term "Attorney" does not mean "lawyer"; most people appoint a trusted person or persons such as family members or friends to act as their Attorney(s) under a POA.

Learn more about Powers of Attorney and how to avoid f nancial abuse through the Canadian Bankers Association's free seminar program, Your Money Seniors.

yourmoney.cba.ca/seniors



fo you have followed the rules or banks (and others) w

 $\mbox{might\,invalidate}$ or conflict with the terms of earlier POAs and lead to unintended consequences.

HOW TO PROTECT AGAINST FINANCIAL ABUSE

Financial abuse can occur when your Attorney uses their power to benef t themselves and not you.

Chose your attorney carefully. When planning for your possible inability to manage your f nances yourself, allowing a trusted person (or persons) to assist with your f nancial affairs can be helpful, but you must select your trusted person wisely.

Remember that you can revoke an existing POA and appoint a new Attorney at any time. You may want to do this if you have co





This text only provides general information and does not constitute a legal opinion. Since the POA rules vary between provinces, the CBA strongly encourages you to seek advice from a legal expert before making any decision in these matters.