



# Durable Power of Attorney

A **Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA)** means you choose a person in your life to make decisions about your money. This person should be someone you trust. They are called an **agent**. You have a say in who you do, or do not want to be your agent. A Durable Power of Attorney is specific to you and your needs. This means, a Durable Power of Attorney does not do the same things for all people.

## Where can I use this support in my life?

The table below shows examples of how you can use a Durable Power of Attorney.

### Money

Your agent can:

- Pay your bills
- Deposit your checks
- File your taxes
- Manage your Social Security (SSI) payments

### Healthcare

Your agent can pay your medical bills, but they cannot make decisions about your healthcare.

### School

Your agent can:

- Pay your school tuition
- Budget for extracurricular activities
- Budget for school supplies

### Personal life

Your agent cannot make decisions about your personal life.

### Housing

Your agent can:

- Sell or mortgage your home
- Pay your rent or mortgage
- Choose an assisted living facility

### Post-secondary life

Your agent can:

- Pay your college or trade school tuition
- Manage your income from employment

Additional information and a full list of references are available at  
<https://www.delawareautismnetwork.org/resources/supported-decision-making/>

Steinbrecher, A., Ferrara, N., Mallory, S., & Legal Support Choices Project Advisory Group (2025).  
*Durable power of attorney*. University of Delaware Center for Disabilities Studies.

# More information about Durable Power of Attorney

## Who is the decision-maker?

If you have a Durable Power of Attorney, someone else makes decisions *for* you. You choose who you want to be your decision-maker.

## Does a Durable Power of Attorney require a court hearing?

No, a court hearing is not required when choosing a Durable Power of Attorney. You can complete this on your own or with help from your supporters.

## Can a Durable Power of Attorney be changed? If yes, by who?

Yes, you can change your Durable Power of Attorney at any time, in writing. To make a change, you must complete a form called a "Notice of Revocation." You should let all supporters know of any changes made to your Durable Power of Attorney.

## Where can I go to learn more about Durable Power of Attorney?

You have choices when it comes to legal support when you turn 18. A Durable Power of Attorney is a choice that is available in Delaware. Other states may have different rules or may not offer the same legal support choices as Delaware.

Visit <https://dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dhcg/poa.html> to learn more about Durable Power of Attorney in Delaware.

*This project is funded by the Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council using federal funds. The opinions do not necessarily represent the views of the Council or the Administration.*

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