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Managing someone else's affairs through Power of Attorney

Since October 2007 there has been a new system to replace the old Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA), which allowed the 'donor' to give someone else (such as one or more relatives or friends) the power to manage their property and financial affairs. However, there were occasional cases where the power was misused to defraud the donor.

The new system, called Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA), has many features aimed at preventing such misuse. It can also give Attorneys a new power to make decisions about the donor's personal welfare (including medical treatment) when he or she has lost the mental capacity to make such decisions.

Because of the new safeguards the procedure is inevitably more complicated. Sevenoaks Citizens Advice Bureau offers free guidance on the various options, together with help in filling in the necessary forms. (Tel. 01732 454443, email: info@sevenoakscab.org.uk)

Information provided by Sevenoaks & Swanley Citizens Advice Bureau. Tel: 01732 454443, email: info@sevenoakscab.org.uk. There is also a Citizens Advice Bureau at Edenbridge.