
As life changes, whether we reach the age of 65 or are diagnosed with a chronic condition, often one the first few things older adults and caregivers start to think about is updating their Will or getting their personal affairs in order.

Do you know that your loved ones do not automatically have the legal right to speak on your behalf or make decisions for you in the event you become incapable? That is why it is so important to have a Personal Directive, Enduring Power of Attorney and a Will.

This ensures that your health care wishes, and financial affairs will be taken care of and respected by someone you trust and have personally appointed. Having these documents will also give you and your family, peace of mind and save you potential expensive legal fees.

Personal Directive

A personal directive is a legal document you write in case you cannot make your own personal decisions in the future.

Enduring Power of Attorney

An Enduring Power of Attorney gives someone else the right to act on your behalf with respect to your financial affairs while you are still alive. It is recommended that a person use a lawyer when making the Enduring Power of Attorney, it is well worth the investment.

A Will

A Will is a legal document that communicates a person's final wishes pertaining to possessions and dependents. You may choose to use the services of a lawyer to make your Will or you could write your own Will. In Alberta a person can still make a Holographic Will, which is written completely in the person's own handwriting.

More information about these important documents is available at <http://www.alberta.ca/personal-directive.aspx> or call the Public Guardian at 780-4270017 or toll free at 1-877-427-4525.