

Before creating a General Power of Attorney, you must read this CAUTION:

Making a General Power of Attorney (GPOA) is an important action with serious consequences. Your GPOA gives someone else the legal authority to act on your behalf—to do **anything** that you could do. With a GPOA, your agent can (for example) rent or buy a house with your money, borrow money that you must repay, sell your car, sue someone for you, or remove all funds from your bank account. Your agent can legally bind you in any matter, just as if the action was taken by you. While a GPOA can be very helpful, it can also be very dangerous. Please carefully consider the following regarding your GPOA:

- Limit the power you give to your agent to only that necessary. If you need someone to perform only specific tasks for you, then you don't need a GPOA. Get a *Special* Power of Attorney (SPOA)—one that will authorize your agent to perform only specified tasks. Legal Assistance personnel can help you prepare an appropriate SPOA.
- Limit the duration of your Power of Attorney, whether a GPOA or SPOA, to no longer than one year or a shorter period, if possible. Don't set the expiration date longer than you will need your agent's services, and don't give the Power of Attorney before it will be needed.
- Make sure your agent is someone you trust. If you lose trust in your agent, talk with a legal assistance attorney about *revoking* your Power of Attorney. Generally, in order to revoke, cancel, or end a Power of Attorney before it expires, you must sign a Revocation of Power of Attorney. You must give a copy of the revocation to any person who might have or will possibly deal with your agent.
- Talk to a legal assistance attorney if you have any questions.

****IMPORTANT INFORMATION****

No one is ever legally required to accept a power of attorney (even a military power of attorney), regardless of the legality or validity of the power of attorney.

In some cases, certain individuals and/or businesses will only accept a power of attorney fulfilling their specific individual standards and requirements, such as banks and other financial institutions. Many have their own form, so ask them. As a result, you should ensure this power of attorney will meet the specific standards of the individuals and/or business with which your agent will do business.

Your grantee or agent **MUST** have the ORIGINAL Power of Attorney; you should keep a copy for your records.

