Statutory Powers of Attorney in D.C.

General Power of Attorney

A general power of attorney allows you to appoint someone as your agent to handle financial matters when you are unable or unwilling to do so, including filing tax returns and matters related to government benefits. It is useful when you are traveling or when you are unable to handle your affairs, either physically or mentally. Powers of attorney are statutory powers. Be sure to look for pocket parts and supplements that update both the law and the annotations in the Official Code of D.C.


Durable Power of Attorney

D.C. has adopted provisions of the Uniform Durable Power of Attorney Act. The D.C. Code defines a durable power of attorney as containing language such as, “This power of attorney will continue to be effective if I become disabled, incapacitated or incompetent.”


For more specific information, see the following D.C. Code sections:

Durable power of attorney not affected by incapacity, D.C. Code § 21-2082 (2001)
Proof of continuance of durable and other powers of attorney by affidavit, D.C. Code § 21-2085 (2001)

Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions

Purpose, D.C. Code § 21-2201 (2001)
Durable power of attorney for health care, D.C. Code § 21-2205 (2001)
Forms for creating a durable power of attorney for health care, D.C. Code § 21-2207 (2001)
Revocation, D.C. Code § 21-2208 (2001)

Custodial Power of Attorney