

Powers of Attorney

Often Necessary in Military Life

There are many occasions during the course of a military career that a power of attorney might be necessary. Do your homework before granting one to somebody.

Typically, servicemembers will need a power of attorney when deploying or going overseas and leaving their loved ones behind to handle the affairs of the household.

There are two basic types of power of attorney, special and general. A general power of attorney gives the person who holds it the power to conduct business in your name.

Servicemembers can grant a special power of attorney, which spells out the specific ways it can be used. The more specific a power of attorney is the better. This prevents people from using it for purposes other than those the service member intended.

Don't give a general power of attorney to someone you don't trust wholeheartedly. Base legal assistance attorneys can help servicemembers determine which type of power of attorney will best meet their needs.

Servicemembers commonly need to issue powers of attorney when they change assignments. Spouses often need legal authorization to conduct necessary business.

Servicemembers may also need to provide a power of attorney to the person caring for their dependent children during a deployment or exercise. Caregivers may need a power of attorney to enroll children in school or other activities.

Caregivers would particularly need a power of attorney to authorize medical treatment if a child needs it. Medical powers of attorney are used if a person becomes incapacitated and someone else needs to make medical decisions.

Military servicemembers and their families can have powers of attorney drawn up and notarized at most base legal assistance offices.

For more information on powers of attorney,
www.cnsl.spear.navy.mil/psdingl/predeploy.htm.



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