

15 August 2016

**APPLICATION FEES FOR LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY
WAIVED FOR TWO MORE YEARS**

***Extension of fee waiver till 2018 to encourage more
Singaporeans to make a Lasting Power of Attorney***

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) has extended the fee waiver for Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) Form 1 applications for another two years until 31 August 2018, to encourage more Singaporeans to plan ahead with an LPA to protect their interests. The first fee waiver was announced in 2014.

2 As part of a review of the current fee structure, the application fee for LPA Form 1 for Singaporeans will be revised to \$75 from 1 September 2016. This fee will however be waived for another two years.

3 The fee of \$200 for LPA Form 2 for Singaporeans remains unchanged. Application fees for Permanent Residents and foreigners will be increased. Details on the revised fees can be found in Annex A.

4 Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Tan Chuan-Jin said, “Planning for the future is something we should all do. I urge Singaporeans to think about their future, make plans and do an LPA. This will help bring peace of mind for yourself and also your loved ones.”

5 All applicants will still be required to pay professional fees charged by LPA certificate issuers, such as accredited medical practitioners, lawyers and psychiatrists, engaged to witness and certify the LPA application. More information on certificate issuers can be found at <https://www.publicguardian.gov.sg/opg/Pages/The-LPA-Where-to-find-a-Certificate-Issuer.aspx>.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
15 August 2016

Relocation of the OPG to the Enabling Village from 3 October 2016:

The Office of the Public Guardian will be relocating to the Enabling Village at Lengkok Bahru with effect from 3 October 2016.

Address:	Family@Enabling Village 20 Lengkok Bahru #04-02 Singapore 159053
Contact No:	1800 226 6222
Opening Hours:	8:30am to 5:30pm (Weekdays excluding Public Holidays)

About the Mental Capacity Act

The Mental Capacity Act ('MCA' or 'the Act') enables adult Singaporeans to appoint proxy decision makers or donees to act in their best interests in the event they should lose mental capacity. The appointment is made through a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) which has to be registered with the Office of Public Guardian (OPG). Donees can be appointed to act in either of two broad categories, or both – personal welfare or property & affairs matters. The Act also provides safeguards to protect the vulnerable person and his caregivers. More information is available from OPG's website: www.publicguardian.gov.sg.

About the Lasting Power of Attorney

The Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document which allows a person who is at least 21 years of age ('donor'), to voluntarily appoint one or more persons ('donee[s]') he trusts to make decisions and act on his behalf if he should lose capacity to make his own decisions. An LPA has to be registered with the OPG.

About the Office of the Public Guardian

The Office of the Public Guardian, a division of the Ministry of Social and Family Development, supports the Public Guardian whose primary role is to strengthen protection for the interests of persons who lack mental capacity within the framework of the MCA.

Revised Application Fees for LPA Form 1 and LPA Form 2

With effect from 1 September 2016

	LPA Form 1 Fee (inclusive of GST) (w.e.f 1 Sep 2016)	LPA Form 2 Fee (inclusive of GST) (w.e.f 1 Sep 2016)
Singapore Citizens	\$0 <i>(fee of \$75 waived for 2 years until 31 August 2018)</i>	\$200
Singapore Permanent Residents	\$100	\$250
Foreigners	\$250	\$300

What is the difference between the LPA Form 1 and Form 2?

The LPA Form 1 is a standard version that individuals use to grant general powers with basic restrictions to their donee(s), while the LPA Form 2 is for those with non-standard requirements and wish to grant customised powers to their donee(s). The Annex to Part 3 of the LPA Form 2 has to be drafted by a lawyer.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Would the government consider extending the waiver of the LPA application fee for Singaporeans beyond the 2 years?

The \$50 application fee for Singaporeans using the LPA Form 1 was waived for two years from 1 September 2014 to 31 August 2016 to encourage Singaporeans to make an LPA. Form 1 meets the needs of the vast majority of Singaporeans. Based on OPG's records, more than 97% of those who make an LPA use Form 1.

Based on the OPG's FY15 annual report, the efforts of the OPG in simplifying the application process and waiver of fees for Form 1 applications by Singapore citizens saw a total number of 8,478 LPA applications in FY15, up from 4,119 the previous year.

We hope that the extension of fee waiver will encourage more Singaporeans to make an LPA.

2. Why is there an increase in the application fees for Singapore Permanent Residents and foreigners?

The OPG has adjusted the fees charged for LPA Form 1 and 2, following a review of operating costs. The fundamental guiding principle in the efforts of the OPG was to make the LPA accessible and affordable for all Singaporeans.

3. Can the government help to work with the certificate issuers to waive the certificate issuing fee?

The certificate issuing fee is a professional fee that certificate issuers such as accredited general practitioners, psychiatrists and lawyers charge.

The LPA is an important legal instrument to be used when an individual is most vulnerable and without mental capacity to manage his/her own affairs. Therefore, it is important to have appropriate safeguards to protect the interests of the individual. The certificate issuer plays this role by certifying that the applicant is not making an LPA under due pressure or duress, and that he/she understands the nature and effect of the legal instrument. For this reason, the certificate issuer charges a professional fee for the service.