

## How do I have a Power of Attorney Prepared?

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Legal Clinic and attorney Noah Dumpert can assist all members of the tribe residing on the reservation or in Kansas with preparing Powers of Attorney. These legal documents should be prepared by an attorney to ensure they can be relied upon when needed.

If you are a member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe, you can apply for legal assistance by filling out a Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Application for Legal Services form. The form can be picked up at the Tribal Council Treasurer's Office at the PBPB Government Center. They are also available online at:

<https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/will-estate-planning/>

Once completed, please return the application to the Tribal Council's Treasurer's Office, or email, or send by mail to the addresses below. Once processed, attorney Noah Dumpert will reach out to you directly to set up an in-person appointment.

For any questions about this service please contact the PBPB Treasurer's Office.

## Contact Us/Submit Applications

Phone: 785-966-4005

Email: [wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org](mailto:wadepahmahmie@pbpnation.org)

Web: <https://www.pbpindiantribe.com/will-estate-planning/>

Mail: ATN: Treasurer's Office, 16281 Q Road, Mayetta, KS 66509

## Who We Are

### About Us

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has teamed up with attorney Noah Dumpert of Bryan, Lykins, Hejtmanek & Dumpert, P.A. with a goal of providing estate planning and legal documents to members of the tribe.

All approved clients will receive legal services at no cost to the tribal member. Contact attorney Noah Dumpert through the PBPB Legal Clinic today for a free consultation.

Attorney Noah Dumpert has spent his entire career representing the interests of persons in NE Kansas. His practice at Bryan, Lykins, Hejtmanek & Dumpert, P.A. has focused on estate planning and probate, as well as the representation of disabled US Veterans. If you have a legal question or issue of any kind, fill out a Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Application for Legal Services form for potential assistance.

*\*These services are only available for members of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation who reside on the reservation or in Kansas.*

*This pamphlet is for informational purposes only. This pamphlet should not be relied upon as a substitute for a consultation with an attorney.*



# Powers of Attorney for Finances

*A guide to understanding and benefits*

## What is a Power of Attorney for Finances?

A **Power of Attorney for Finances** (also known as a Power of Attorney for Financial Decisions or a Durable Power of Attorney for Finances) is a legal document that allows you to appoint a trusted person to make financial decisions and act as your **fiduciary** (someone who is bound to act in your best financial interests) if you were ever incapacitated or unable to speak/act for yourself.

A Power of Attorney for Finances allows your agent to act on your behalf even if you become incompetent or unable to communicate. These documents can be very broad in the powers they grant your agent, or very limited in scope, depending on your personal preferences.

## Who Should I appoint?

The person you choose to serve as your POA is known as a financial agent. Who you appoint into this role should be carefully considered. The person you appoint should be:

- ✓ **Someone who is local.** If an emergency happens, they need to be able to quickly make decisions and act for you.
- ✓ **Someone you trust.** The person you choose should be an individual that can be trusted to handle your finances and access your accounts.
- ✓ **Someone who is willing.** An agent can decline to serve, so choosing a willing agent is critical.

## Why Should I have a Power of Attorney for Finances?

1. **Continuity in Managing Your Finances:** If you are ever unable to act for yourself, a Power of Attorney for Finances ensures that someone you trust will be able to handle your financial affairs without costly delays. Your bills can be paid and your needs can be met immediately.
2. **You Decide Who is Managing your Affairs:** Without a Power of Attorney for Finances it may be up to a court to choose who handles your financial affairs – and it may not be who you would choose. You get to select someone who you know will do the right thing and take care of your hard-earned money.
3. **Helps Your Family and Friends:** In difficult times, family members may not all agree on what is best for you. Appointing a financial agent provides clarity and certainty, which in turn reduces conflict.
4. **Comprehensive and Customizable:** Powers of attorney documents are customizable according to your wishes. This customization ensures your financial agent has clear guidelines on your preferences, what they are allowed to do with your assets, and what they aren't.
5. **Ease of Access:** Once you've executed the power of attorney document, copies can be kept in your home, with your financial agent, and with your financial institutions. This ensures your financial agent can act promptly in the event of an emergency.
6. **It's free!** All PBPN members who reside on the reservation or in Kansas can have this document prepared at no cost to them by attorney Noah Dumpert.

## Things to Understand About Powers of Attorney for Finances

A Power of Attorney for Finances is a powerful tool to assist you in a time of need. A Power of Attorney for Finances allows your agent to:

- ❖ Pay your bills, including rent/mortgage, utilities, and insurance.
- ❖ Manage your bank accounts and investments.
- ❖ File your taxes.
- ❖ Buy or sell real estate on your behalf.
- ❖ Handle business operations if you own a business.
- ❖ Apply for and manage government benefits (Social Security, Medicare, etc.).

## Important Considerations

While your agent cannot override your will if you have mental capacity, there are still important things to consider when making this document.

✗ **Risk of Abuse:** If you appoint the wrong person, they may mismanage your money or act against your best interests.

✗ **No Court Oversight:** There's no automatic legal supervision to ensure your agent is acting responsibly. Once again, it is critical you choose a trustworthy agent who will act in your best interests.