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Powers of Attorney

A power of attorney (POA) is a powerful document that allows someone to act on your behalf for various legal matters and financial transactions. Can't decide on whether a general or special POA is right for you? A general POA allows you (the principal) to give a broad range of powers to a trusted person (the agent) to act on your behalf in *any and all* transactions or capacity. In contrast, a special POA grants *limited* authority to the agent to perform a *specific* act on your behalf such as selling a car, accessing a bank account, or managing property.

There are a few important tips to remember when utilizing a POA:

- Tip # 1 Whether the agent is a friend, relative, organization, or attorney, you need someone who will look out for your best interests, respect your wishes, and won't abuse the powers granted to him or her.
- Tip # 2 It is important for the agent to keep accurate records of all transactions done on your behalf and to provide you with periodic updates to keep you informed. If you are unable to review updates yourself, direct your agent to give an account to a third party.
- Tip # 3 POA's are only useful if the company or organization accepts it as valid. Ultimately, if the agent attempts to use to the POA, a company or organization can refuse to accept it or request additional information to verify the authenticity of the document.

For more information on POA's visit the U.S Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>

This handout is for basic information as it relates to military personnel stationed in Turkey. It is not intended to take the place of legal advice from a judge advocate. There may be important exceptions to the information presented here. Please contact the 39th Air Base Wing legal office for questions or further information. You may view more information on various legal topics at the Air Force Legal Assistance Website: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.