

A Power of attorney is a written instrument whereby one person, as the principal, appoints another to act as his or her agent , giving them the authority to perform certain acts on their behalf. Powers of attorney are useful if there will be situations in which a Marine may have to conduct matters while they are deployed which would normally require their physical presence or personal action. Such things could include buying or selling vehicles, handling financial accounts, managing cable, phone and power bills, and managing property. These are just a few examples. Powers of attorney are subject to abuse so individuals obtaining powers of attorney are advised that they should only be left with someone that is trustworthy and responsible.

General Power of Attorney: A general power of attorney gives another person, the agent, all of the principal's power to contract and act on their behalf. The agent can cash checks, sign leases, arrange shipment of household goods, and do any other action that the principal could do. Since a general power of attorney confers unlimited power to the agent, general powers of attorney are discouraged if a special power of attorney will be adequate.

Special Power of Attorney: A special power of attorney authorizes only specific powers be granted to the agent. This specific power or powers which are granted are specifically listed in the document and limit the agent to just those items.

A **military power of attorney** is valid in all fifty states. HOWEVER, there is no requirement that a local business accept any power of attorney. If you are intending to grant a power of attorney to an agent to act on your behalf and deal with certain known businesses, then it is recommended that those businesses be contacted before hand to ensure they will recognize a power of attorney.