



U.S. ARMY OKINAWA

★ TORII STATION ★



LEGAL ASSISTANCE

• 652-4332 / 4742 • BUILDING 218, ROOM 220 •

LEGAL ISSUES AND DEPLOYMENT

Legal Assistance Office of the Okinawa Law Center, Torii Station, Okinawa, can help with your legal readiness: We can review SGLI beneficiary designations; prepare Powers of Attorney, Wills, Advance Medical Directives, Healthcare Powers of Attorney; and provide many other valuable services to help with military readiness.

Powers of Attorney: There are two types of powers of attorney: General and Special.

- a. **General Power of Attorney (GPOA):** This type of Power of Attorney gives broad power to your “attorney-in-fact” to do many things on your behalf. There are potential problems with a General Power of Attorney. Because the powers are so broad, irresponsible or unethical persons can and sometimes do abuse the authority. Compounding this problem is the difficulty in effectively revoking a GPOA. Moreover, some agencies or activities are skeptical about accepting a GPOA and may adopt policies to only accept Special Powers of Attorney, which are far more limited in scope.
- b. **Special Power of Attorney:** This type of Power of Attorney gives limited power to do a specific act (or sell a car, file income taxes, clear government quarters, etc.). As mentioned above, many businesses will only accept a Special Power of Attorney. If you can anticipate specific uses for your power of attorney, you may want to execute a Special Power of Attorney.

Will: This is a document that not only determines how your assets will be distributed upon your death, but it also permits you to more effectively manage your estate by choosing the appropriate Personal Representative (or Executor). In addition, you can create and sign a will that appoints a guardian(s) for your minor child(ren) and/or set up a testamentary trust for their benefit.

Advance Medical Directives: This document provides guidance to your physician regarding your decisions for the continuation of life sustaining measures under various circumstances. Most people have heard stories about people who were “hooked up to machines” for years while their family members fought over what should be done. AMDs can also ensure a relative does not “pull the plug” prematurely and communicates your wishes for continued care. An Advance Medical Directive allows you to make this decision in advance.

Healthcare Power of Attorney: This document allows you to appoint someone you trust to make healthcare decisions for you in the event that you are unable to make the decisions for yourself (such as would be the case if you were rendered unconscious or incapacitated). This document also allows you to make known your desires regarding organ donation.

Above are some examples of routine legal services for legal readiness. The Torii Station Legal Assistance Office is available to help with other legal issues as well.