The Uniform Power of Attorney Act (UPOAA) provides a simple way for one person (the “principal”) to authorize another person (the “agent”) to act on his or her behalf. Although powers of attorney are common across the country, state statutes regulating their use vary widely, causing confusion for principals, agents, and the third parties who deal with agents under a power of attorney. The UPOAA standardizes and modernizes the law of powers of attorney, providing greater protections against abuse and shielding innocent parties from liability. The act also provides a simple, customizable power of attorney form that anyone can use.

ORIGIN: Completed by the Uniform Law Commission in 2006.

ENDORSED BY: AARP

APPROVED BY: American Bar Association; ABA Commission on Law and Aging.

ENACTED BY:

For further information about the Uniform Power of Attorney Act, please contact ULC Chief Counsel Benjamin Orzeske at (312) 450-6621 or borzeske@uniformlaws.org.

The ULC is a nonprofit formed in 1892 to create nonpartisan state legislation. Over 350 volunteer commissioners—lawyers, judges, law professors, legislative staff, and others—work together to draft laws ranging from the Uniform Commercial Code to acts on property, trusts and estates, family law, criminal law and other areas where uniformity of state law is desirable.