

## POWER OF ATTORNEY APPLICATION COVERSHEET

⇒ *Before making a Power of Attorney, you must read this advice below.*

A General Power of Attorney (GPOA) is a very powerful document with serious legal consequences. Thus, an appointment of a GPOA is not to be taken lightly. The agent you appoint will have the legal authority to do *anything* on your behalf you would be able to do. Essentially, the GPOA allows that person to BE you. For example, an agent with a GPOA can rent or buy a house with your money, borrow money that you must repay, sell your car, sue someone for you, or remove all funds from your bank account. Your agent can legally bind you. A GPOA can be very dangerous. Never grant a GPOA when a Special Power of Attorney (SPOA) will meet your needs.

- With any power of attorney, limit the agent's authority to only what is necessary. If you need someone to perform only specific tasks for you, such as shipping your household goods, then you don't need a GPOA. Get an SPOA—one that will authorize your agent to perform only those specific tasks. We can help you prepare one.
- Limit the duration of your Power of Attorney to no longer than is necessary to accomplish the task. Don't set the expiration date longer than you will need your agent's services, and don't give the Power of Attorney before it will be needed. For example, if you want your agent to ship your household goods before the end of the month, there is no reason for an expiration date a year from now.
- Make sure your agent is someone you can trust. If you lose trust in your agent, talk with a legal assistance attorney about *revoking* your Power of Attorney.
- Don't hesitate to talk to the legal assistance attorney if you have questions.

**NOTE: You *must* have your military identification card and driver's license with you to execute your POA.**

