



FreeholdIP

The Certificate of Fiduciary Authority

How it works, end to end

A portable, self-verifying proof of a power of attorney: **owned by the client**,
issued and maintained by the firm, and confirmable by anyone, without a
phone call.

A WALKTHROUGH · PATENT PENDING · 2026

WHAT IT IS

A power of attorney that proves itself

A Certificate of Fiduciary Authority turns a power of attorney into a secure digital record that states **who is authorized to act**, on what scope, and whether the authority is still in force. The client owns it. The firm issues and maintains it. And anyone who needs to rely on it can confirm, on the spot, that it's **genuine** and **not revoked**, without calling the firm.

And it carries authority through its **whole life**: it can pass cleanly to a successor on incapacity or death, and it can reach the **self-custodied digital assets** a custodian could never be served for. It proves *who is authorized*; it never holds the client's assets or keys, and it **accompanies** the executed instrument rather than replacing it.

THE PARTIES

Four roles, one record

ISSUER

The law firm

Holds its own signing key and an identity on the public record; signs each certificate.

PRINCIPAL

The client

Grants the authority and *owns* the record, held with their own key.

AGENT

The attorney-in-fact

May act under it, bound to their own key so they can prove they are the named agent.

VERIFIER

Bank · title · custodian

Anyone who needs to confirm the authority is genuine and current.

Start to finish

1

The firm becomes a verified issuer

The firm generates its signing key in its own browser and records an identity on the public ledger. That identity is the trust root: a forger can't recreate it, so a forged certificate can't pass.

ONE TIME · THE FIRM

2

The firm invites the client and the agent

A one-click invitation sends each of them a short guide and a link. They create their own FreeholdIP identity in about two minutes (their keys stay with them) and reply with their identity name.

THE FIRM → THE CLIENT & AGENT

3

The attorney issues the mandate

The attorney fills in the scope, effective condition (immediate or springing on incapacity), jurisdiction, and limitations, optionally naming **co-agents and successor agents** with an exercise rule (acting singly, jointly, or by an M-of-N threshold), and attaches the executed power of attorney, whose fingerprint is sealed in. It's signed in the attorney's browser with the firm's key.

THE ATTORNEY

4

The client receives it

The client and agent get a verify link, a QR code, and a copy they can download, and can save all of their records as a single file to keep on a phone or computer.

THE CLIENT & AGENT

5

Anyone verifies it

A verifier pastes the ID or scans the QR. Their browser checks the firm's signature against the firm's identity on the public record and reads the live status, confirming it's genuine and in force.

No account, no call to the firm.

THE VERIFIER

6

The firm keeps it current

The firm can revoke, renew, suspend, or re-scope the mandate at any moment. The change is instant for anyone who checks, and "revoked stays revoked."

7**It survives everyone**

Because the record carries its own proof, it keeps verifying (offline, by math) from the saved copy and the public ledger, even if the firm, or FreeholdIP itself, someday is gone.

ALWAYS

THE TRANSITION LAYER**When authority must pass**

The hardest moment for any power of attorney is the handoff: on incapacity, on death, when the primary agent can no longer serve. The certificate carries that handoff **provably**, on a clean, timestamped record of who held authority and when it changed.

Firm-signed transition

When the triggering event occurs, the firm activates a named successor with its key. The certificate then leads with *who is acting now*, and still verifies as one continuous record.

Springing safeguard

An incapacity transition can be gated by typed medical attestations from two physicians, a waiting period, and a protector's veto, so it springs only when it should.

The survivor path

If the *firm* can no longer act, a named successor can still be activated, from independent attestations the firm pre-authorized at issuance, checked by math, with no call to the firm.

A defensible history

Every change is recorded and Bitcoin-anchored: the fiduciary's clean answer to "who held this authority, and when did it change?"

Reaching the assets others can't

A statute can compel a *custodian* (a bank, a broker) to disclose. It has nothing to compel for **self-custodied** assets: a hardware wallet, a domain, a cloud root, a password vault. There is no clerk to serve. This is where the certificate goes where nothing else can.

Asset & succession inventory

A clear triage of the client's assets: what a custodian can be compelled to disclose, versus the control-based assets the statute can't reach. It records **public, watch-only** references only; never a secret.

A reconstruction recipe

For a control-based asset, a successor-only "how to take control" map: a Shamir-share plan, or a **native-multisig** policy where the successor is a co-signer from the start.

Sealed to the successor

The recipe is encrypted to the successor's own key before it ever reaches us. **We hold only ciphertext**. We cannot read it, and neither can anyone but the named successor.

Non-custodial by construction

The shares and co-signing keys stay with the client's chosen people. The successor takes control on the asset's own chain, on their own device. **No key, share, or signature ever passes through us.**

HONEST SCOPE

Where it helps most, and what it doesn't claim

Digital & self-custodied assets

Where there's no clerk and proving an agent's authority is genuinely hard. This is where a portable proof is uniquely needed.

A live status check

With a traditional bank it *supports* the paper power of attorney, most usefully as the "has this been revoked?" check, rather than replacing the bank's own process.

The firm's own registry

An authoritative, current, revocable record of every mandate the firm has issued, useful whether or not any institution ever scans it.

The trusted circle

Successor agents, co-trustees, family, and other advisors can confirm authority today, because they already trust the firm.

IN PLAIN TERMS

This is not a claim that a bank will accept a QR code in place of its process tomorrow. Institutional acceptance is a journey. What works today is the proof of authenticity and status, the digital-asset cases where nothing better exists, and the firm's own authoritative record.

WHY IT'S DIFFERENT

The four properties

Tamper-evident

Checked against the firm's identity on the public ledger, which a copycat cannot recreate. A record signed by any other key does not verify.

Client-owned

Held with the client's own key. It can't be taken from them, deleted, or shut off.

No custody

No one (not the firm, not FreeholdIP) ever holds the client's assets or keys. It proves authority; it never moves money.

Outlives the issuer

Keeps verifying offline, by math alone, even if the firm or the platform disappears. Most records die with their issuer; this one doesn't.

SEE IT LIVE

A working demonstration

The links below show a live, end-to-end example issued by a fictional demonstration firm, *Harlowe Estate Law*, through the full lifecycle, prove to operate.

The firm page: authority.freeholdip.com/issuer?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW

Verify a mandate: authority.freeholdip.com/verify?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_POA_767E495C

A mandate with a successor activated: [/certification?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_POA_55329AC1](https://authority.freeholdip.com/certification?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_POA_55329AC1)

The survivor path (firm-free succession): [/succession?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_POA_3DFE20B9](https://authority.freeholdip.com/succession?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_POA_3DFE20B9)

An asset & succession inventory: [/inventory?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_INV_586073A7](https://authority.freeholdip.com/inventory?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_INV_586073A7)

The successor's recovery handoff: [/handoff?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_INV_586073A7](https://authority.freeholdip.com/handoff?id=HARLOWEESTATELAW_INV_586073A7)

The client's guide: authority.freeholdip.com/guide-client

The attorney's guide: authority.freeholdip.com/guide-attorney

WHERE THIS STANDS

An honest status

FreeholdIP is a working system: the full lifecycle above, prove through operate, is live in the demonstration. The legal framing (that this is a tool a professional uses, not legal advice and not custody) is documented in a role/UPL analysis and a security statement available for a firm's carrier and IT review. The underlying mechanism is the subject of a filed patent. Institutional acceptance is a journey: what works today is the proof of authenticity and status, the clean transition and audit record, and the digital-asset cases where nothing better exists. It is offered as software and coordination. It proves *who is authorized*, and it pairs with, never replaces, the executed instrument and the institutions that hold the assets.

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