

How to Choose a Trustee

As you plan for your own and your family's financial future, you may be considering the creation of a trust. If you decide a trust is needed, either during your lifetime or in your will, you will have to choose a trustee to administer it.

A trust is a legal arrangement that transfers property to a trustee, who manages it for the benefit of the individuals you name. The law sets high standards that every trustee must meet. You can choose almost anyone to serve as your trustee—a family member, a friend, an accountant or attorney—but the best option is often a corporate fiduciary, such as Carson Private Trust. Naming a corporate fiduciary—alone or jointly with a family member—has several advantages for your beneficiaries, namely continuity and stability.

More Advantages of a Corporate Trustee

Unfortunately, family members may not be able to devote the necessary attention or time to handling what is a fairly complex undertaking. Even smart friends or business associates are unlikely to have the experience to serve as a capable trustee. Mistakes made in the administration of the trust may result in needless expense and cost you, your estate, and/or your beneficiary(ies) valuable assets. And unlike friends and family members, Carson Private Trust won't move away, fall ill, or lose interest in overseeing your trust. We also have experienced investment professionals and resources that are essential to effectively manage your trust assets and address the needs of beneficiaries over the trust's term.

If you feel more comfortable having someone close to you involved in managing your trust's assets, consider

naming a friend or family member as co-trustee of your trust. With this approach, you'll have the perspective and family connection of an individual trustee as well as our professional experience and skills.

Take your time before naming a trustee of your trust. Your financial advisor would be happy to provide more details about Carson Private Trust and the benefits of choosing a corporate trustee.

A Trustee's Role

Things to Consider

- 1 Extensive investment management and trust administration experience
- 2 Knowledge of applicable state laws and procedures
- 3 Long-term stability
- 4 Neutral third-party administrator
- 5 Ability to serve as co-trustee with an individual family member or friend

It sounds simple enough - you create a trust and choose a trustee. But keep in mind the institution you name as trustee will be legally responsible for the proper distribution of trust assets to trust beneficiaries. It's important to choose a company with the appropriate skills and commitment.

Tasks a trustee might perform include:

- » Accounting and administrative duties, such as paying bills, retitling assets, and bookkeeping
- » Asset management, including reviewing investment performance, maintaining records, tracking investments, and collecting dividends and other income
- » Maintenance and transfer of real estate, including obtaining titles, deeds, and appraisals
- » Management, valuation, and disposal of business interests held in the trust
- » Valuation and distribution of personal property
- » Management of unique assets, such as farm or ranch holdings, copyrights, patent rights, and oil and gas interests
- » Estate settlement, including preparing tax returns and paying creditors
- » Distribution of assets according to the trust terms

Objectivity

No trust document can foresee every eventuality that may occur. During the term of the trust, your trustee will be called upon to make careful decisions that are in the best interest of your beneficiaries. You can expect a corporate fiduciary to make such decisions objectively and in accordance with the laws of your particular state.

Consider a corporate trustee in the following circumstances:

- » To avoid burdening family with a time-consuming and complex job at an emotional time
- » When family members don't get along
- » When more than one marriage is involved
- » When a trust lasts a long time

Why Your Choice of Trustee Matters

Choosing a trustee is an important step in setting up your trust. Before you decide, you must first understand the trustee's role and evaluate the history of the trustee's performance and its objectivity.

If you're not sure whether you have chosen the right trustee in your estate planning documents, or to learn more about working with us, contact:

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This summary is not intended to provide specific legal, tax, or other professional advice. For a comprehensive review of your personal situation, always consult with a tax or legal advisor. Carson Private Trust is a Trust Representative Office of National Advisors Trust Company (NATC) and National Advisors Trust of South Dakota (NATSD). Carson Partners and NATC and NATSD are separate and unaffiliated companies and are not responsible for each other's policies and services. Investment advisory services offered through CWM, LLC, an SEC Registered Investment



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