

## Selecting the right trustee

Choose a professional to administer your trust.

Whether your trust is simple or complex, you need an experienced trustee who will honor the grantor's wishes and execute the provisions of your trust.

### Select a qualified trustee

While it may be comforting to name a relative or a close friend as your trustee, it's important to carefully consider your choices.

There are many laws that together define the duties of a trustee. These responsibilities of trustees have become increasingly complex and time-consuming, with many responsibilities including, but not limited to:

- **Knowledge of legal provisions of the trust** and the state statutes governing trust administration.
- **Impartiality and responsibility to all beneficiaries**, current and future. Typically, in accordance with the law, trustees must understand the financial circumstances of each trust beneficiary.
- **Investment experience** to provide management of trust assets based on the terms of the trust and the needs of the beneficiaries.
- **Familiarity with organizational and accounting systems** to maintain detailed records and provide accounting to interested parties according to the terms of the trust and state trust laws. Trustees are also responsible for tax reporting and all related accounting to comply with IRS regulations.

### Consider your options

You can name almost anyone who has reached adult age and is not legally excluded from serving as your trustee. You typically have three choices:

- **Individual trustees** could include family members, friends or professionals such as attorneys or accountants, and in some cases, yourself.

Individual trustees offer familiarity with your family situation but may lack the expertise and time needed to deal with complex trust duties. They may also have difficulty dealing with personal conflicts among beneficiaries.

- **Corporate trustees** provide professional expertise and objective handling of personal conflicts and beneficiary interests, but they may not be as familiar with your family situation.
- **Co-trustees** are two or more trustees who serve together. You might choose an individual trustee and a corporate trustee. All trustees share responsibilities and must cooperate with each other to fulfill their fiduciary duties.

### Factors to consider when selecting a trustee

- How long is the trust likely to last?
- How complex is the trust?
- How large will the trust be?
- Will family dynamics make the trust hard to administer?

## These questions can help you determine which type of trustee is best for you:

- **How long is your trust likely to last?** How valuable is it to you to have the same dedicated trustee who can consistently serve the trust for generations to come?
- **How complex will your trust be?** Will your trust administration require special tax or investment expertise that an individual trustee may lack?
- **How large will trust assets be after estate distribution provisions have been addressed?** Will an individual trustee be able to handle a complex trust with many assets, or will it require a dedicated professional trustee?
- **How will family dynamics factor into administering your trust?** Are there family issues or strained relationships that could complicate matters? Your trustee should be unbiased in making difficult decisions.

For information  
on personal trust  
services, visit  
[ameriprise.com/pts](https://ameriprise.com/pts).

## Ameriprise Bank, FSB offers experience and expertise

As a professional trustee, we've handled a wide range of trust types. We also offer:

- The experience to handle the time-consuming paperwork and legal requirements involved with your trust
- An objective approach you may not find with a trustee who is also a family member
- The ability to administer the trust for as long as it exists — unlike some individual trustees
- A competitive fee structure

Whether you're moving your current trust relationship to Ameriprise Bank, FSB or establishing a new trust as part of your overall estate plan, your Ameriprise financial advisor will work with your estate planning attorney and trustees to make sure your trust fits within your total financial picture. That way, you have a team you can trust, led by your advisor who understands your full financial goals.

To review your trust needs, talk to your  
Ameriprise financial advisor today.

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