

Revocable Living Trust

Living trusts were invented to let people make an end-run around probate. The main advantage of holding your valuable property in trust is that after your death, the trust property doesn't have to go through probate. (It is, however, counted as part of your estate for **federal estate tax purposes.) That's because a trustee—not you as an individual—owns the trust property. After your death, the trustee can easily and quickly transfer the trust property to the family or friends you left it to, without probate. You specify in the trust document, which is similar to a will, whom you want to inherit the property.**