

Smart Death Planning

Revocable Living Trust Estate Plan

If you don't own your property at your death, there is no way your death can trigger the "Probate Process". Your family will not have to go to court.

That is what a Revocable Family Living Trust can do for you. The Living Trust is a legal entity that can own property. [And, it will never die]. Once you transfer your assets into your living trust, you don't own them anymore [for probate purposes]. Your probate estate is reduced to zero.

When you die, your wishes and instructions will be carried out by your "successor trustee."

Your trustee's job is to act like a judge in probate court. They are to pay your bills and then distribute your Trust Estate to the beneficiaries that you name. It is really quite simple.

A trust is Private - no one will have access to a copy of your trust at the courthouse. A trust is less expensive than probate. The costs to purchase a trust and keep it up to date are less expensive than the court fees associated with the costs of probate. The after death trust administration is faster than probate - usually around 1 to 6 months depending on the issues that come up.

While you are alive, a trust can help you if you become disabled – by avoiding Guardianship and Conservatorship - the disability provisions will assure you and your family that that process will never be necessary. A living trust begins working for you immediately after you sign it, unlike a will. Wills only work after you die.