

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A TESTAMENTARY TRUST

These instructions are intended as a guideline only and should not be relied upon as a comprehensive list of duties in a testamentary trust.

A testamentary trust is established through a Last Will and Testament of a decedent.

A fee is required at the time of filing. Current Court Costs are posted at:

<https://www.probatect.org/about/general-resources>. Please confirm the amount with the Cashier since filing fees may have changed subsequent to the publication of the instruction sheet. **This fee must be paid in cash, money order, certified check, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. No personal checks will be accepted.**

The forms may be obtained from the Issue Desk on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of the Probate Court, 230 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Cincinnati, Ohio or by downloading the forms from the web site.

## PROCEDURAL STEPS

| Step 1: Complete the following forms   |  |
|--|--|
| Trust Beneficiaries (H.C. 54.0) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete form.</li> <li>- Be sure to specify <i>complete</i> addresses of all of those listed.</li> </ul>   | At the time of filing  |
| Application for Appointment of a Trustee (H.C. 54.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete form.</li> <li>- Attach copy of will to application.</li> <li>- <b>This application will be given a new case number.</b></li> <li>- If the applicant is not named in the will then attach or file a separate Memorandum in support of the application prior to hearing before the magistrate.</li> </ul>  | At the time of filing  |
| Entry Setting Hearing (H.C. Form 202.00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Only required if applicant is not named in the will. Hearing will be set before the magistrate.</li> <li>- Fill in the name of the decedent only.</li> <li>- The magistrate will fill in the hearing date &amp; time and initial the entry.</li> </ul>   | At the time of filing, if needed   |
| Trustee's Bond (H.C. 54.3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When applying to be appointed trustee, the applicant is required to execute a bond unless applicant is named in the will and the bond is waived by the testator.</li> <li>- Applicant must execute and date form.</li> <li>- <b>Bond must be executed by a surety company in front of the court personnel.</b></li> <li>- The bond shall be twice the value of the assets funding the trust, with a minimum bond requirement of \$20,000.</li> </ul> | Once signed by the applicant, the bond form needs to be left with the Court in order for the agent of the surety company to execute the bond in the presence of the clerk.<br><br>May be left with the Court anytime prior to the hearing. |
| Application for Release of Funds to Custodial Depository in Lieu of Bond (H.C.204.05) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete form.</li> </ul>   | Normally the day of the hearing  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Filed when there is not an attorney and applicant does not want to obtain one.</li> <li>- Filed to dispense with requirement of joint control with an attorney, posting of a bond and filing of yearly accounts.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p>Entry Releasing Funds to Custodial Depository in Lieu of Bond (H.C. 204.06)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete form.</li> <li>- Make sure you have obtained an account number from the bank.</li> </ul>  | Normally the day of the hearing   |
| <p>Verification of Receipt and Deposit of Custodial Depository (H.C. 204.07)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A bank clerk completes form once the funds are in the account.</li> <li>- Normally the bank sends the form to the court.</li> </ul>  | Filed by the bank, normally within 30 days from filing of Entry Releasing Funds to Custodial Depository |
| <p>Entry Appointing Trustee; Letters of Authority (H.C. 54.4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete form.</li> <li>- If the magistrate grants the application and everything is in order, he/she will sign the letters.</li> </ul>   | Preferably at the time of initial filing. Otherwise, the day of the hearing.                            |
| <b>THE NEXT GROUP OF FORMS IS NOT NEEDED AT THE INITIAL FILING.</b>  |   |
| <p>Trustee's Inventory (H.C. Form 54.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The trustee must file an inventory specifically listing the assets of the trust and the value of those assets.</li> </ul>   | 3 months from date of appointment   |
| <p>Trustee's Account (H.C. Form 54.8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From the date of appointment, the trustee is responsible for filing an account every 2 years.</li> <li>- On back of Trustee's Account (form 54.8), have an employee of each bank where trust funds are deposited complete a bank certificate.</li> <li>- Trustee must sign form.</li> </ul> | Every 2 years starting with date of appointment   |
| <p>Receipts and Disbursements (H.C. Form 54.81)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specifically list the assets of the trust that were listed on the Inventory (54.5) plus all income and disbursements made.</li> </ul>   | Filed with account  |
| <p>Assets Remaining in Trustee's Hands (H.C. Form 54.82)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete form if filing a current account.</li> <li>- Specifically describe those assets of the trust remaining in trustee's hands.</li> </ul>   |   |
| <p>Entry Setting Hearing on Account (H.C. 213.8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fill in the caption and have attorney sign.</li> <li>- The account clerk will fill in hearing date &amp; time and sign &amp; date the form.</li> </ul>   | Filed with account.   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Notice of Hearing on Account (H.C. 13.5)<br/> Waiver of Notice of Hearing (H.C. 13.7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When filing a <i>current</i> account, all <i>income</i> beneficiaries are entitled to be notified of the hearing on the account.</li> <li>- When filing a <i>final</i> account, all <i>trust</i> beneficiaries are entitled to be notified of the hearing on the account.</li> <li>- You must either obtain a waiver from each individual (H.C. 13.7) or perfect certified mail notice (H.C. 13.5) on each individual. See Local Rule 64.1(D)</li> <li>- If certified mail notice is used, present certified mail return (green card) and a copy of the notice that was sent to each individual to the magistrate assigned to your case.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p>Entry Approving and Settling Account (H.C. 13.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fill in name of the decedent and case number.</li> <li>- Magistrate will complete form on the day of the account hearing.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>STEP 2: ASSIGNING OF MAGISTRATE, REVIEWING OF FORMS, AND SETTING HEARING DATE.</b></p>   |  |
| <p>When all forms have been completed, present them to the magistrate’s assistant at the information desk on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of Probate Court where the clerk will write the initials of the magistrate who has been handling the estate on the form. If the appointment is for a successor trustee and a magistrate is already assigned, you may take the forms directly to the assigned magistrate to be reviewed.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>STEP 3: FILING OF FORMS WITH CASHIER</b></p>   |  |
| <p>All forms are taken to the cashier who will assign a case number. At this time, the cashier will require the payment of the filing fee. The cashier will stamp the case number on all the papers plus one set of copies, if provided, and clock in the original forms that can be docketed that day. After clocking in the forms, the cashier will place the forms in a file folder and take it to the Issue Desk. If the magistrate approved the letters; the clerk will certify a letter of appointment and return it to you. If the application was set for hearing the clerk will docket the appropriate pleadings.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>STEP 4: THE HEARING – WHAT TO EXPECT (IF NEEDED)</b></p>   |  |
| <p>At the date and time of the hearing, you (and your attorney, if attorney is obtained) should report to the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Probate Court. (The magistrate will already have the file with the forms you initially filed). If you had to obtain waivers or serve notices of the hearing, you will give them to the magistrate. The magistrate will conduct the hearing, and if he/she approves the appointment, he/she will sign the Entry Appointing Trustee; Letters of Authority (H.C. 54.4). If the bond is signed, depository is set up (if not posting a bond) or the applicant is a bank. You will then go to the Issue Desk and have the clerk certify a copy of the Entry Appointing Trustee; Letters of Authority signed by the magistrate or if unable to issue on the day of the hearing the file will be returned to the clerk until the letters are able to be issued.</p> |  |

**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

TRUST OF \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE BENEFIT OF \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE**

Now comes \_\_\_\_\_, a resident of Hamilton County, Ohio, and hereby makes application to be appointed Trustee of said Estate and agrees to perform the duties of said office according to **[Check one]**:  the terms of said Will (and Codicil/s) under Item \_\_\_\_\_  the wrongful death trust;  special needs trust;  other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_, for the benefit of \_\_\_\_\_.

Your applicant represents that said trust estate is estimated as follows:

|                     |    |       |
|---------------------|----|-------|
| Personal Property   | \$ | _____ |
| Real Property       | \$ | _____ |
| Annual Rents        | \$ | _____ |
| Other Annual Income | \$ | _____ |

Wherefore your applicant asks to be appointed Trustee and presents a bond as such Trustee in the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ with the following surety:

Applicant accepts the duties of Trustee imposed by law, and such additional duties as may be required by the Court. Applicant acknowledges that he/she may be removed as fiduciary for failure to perform such duties as required, and also acknowledges that he/she may be subject to criminal penalties for improper conversion of any property held as fiduciary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. (include area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. (include area code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney Registration No.



**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

TRUST OF \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE BENEFIT OF \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUSTEE'S BOND**

Amount of Bond \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned principal, and sureties if any, are obligated to the State of Ohio in the above amount, for payment of which we bind ourselves and our successors, heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally.

The principal has accepted in writing the duties of trustee pursuant to:

- ( ) said decedent's Will (and Codicil(s))
- ( ) wrongful death settlement trust [R.C. 2125.03]
- ( ) special needs trust [R.C. 2111.50(B)(3)]

Said duties include the following:

1. Make and return to the Court, on oath, as provided by and within the time required by law a true inventory of the real and personal property belonging to the Trust;
2. Administer and distribute according to law and the Trust all the real and personal property belonging to the Trust;
3. Render upon oath a just and true account of the administration at the time or times required by the Court or the law; AND in all matters, faithfully and honestly discharge the duties of said office, and comply with all conditions imposed by law.

This obligation is void if the principal performs such duties as required. This obligation remains in force if the principal fails to perform such duties, or performs them tardily, negligently, or improperly, or if the principal misuses or misappropriates estate assets or improperly converts them to his own use or the use of another.

**[Check if personal sureties are involved]** -  The sureties certify that each of them owns real estate in this county, with a reasonable net value as stated below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surety

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surety

\_\_\_\_\_  
By  
Attorney in Fact

\_\_\_\_\_  
By  
Attorney in Fact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Typed or Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Net value of real estate owned in this county

\_\_\_\_\_  
Net value of real estate owned in this county

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

TRUST OF \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE BENEFIT OF \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY APPOINTING TRUSTEE; LETTERS OF AUTHORITY**

Name of Trustee: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Co-Trustee(s) [if any]: \_\_\_\_\_

On hearing in open court on the application for appointment of trustee, the Court finds that the applicant is a suitable and competent person to execute the trust, that applicant has filed a written acceptance of duties as Trustee, and that the Trustee's Bond has been **[Check one]**:

- filed and approved
- waived under the terms of the decedent's Will
- waived according to law.

The Court therefore appoints applicant as Trustee. This entry of appointment constitutes the trustee's letters of authority.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge

**CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT AND INCUMBENCY**

The above document is a true copy of the original kept by me as custodian of the records of this Court. It constitutes the appointment and letters of authority of the named trustee, who is qualified and acting in such capacity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge/Clerk

[Seal]

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

TRUST OF \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE BENEFIT OF \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUSTEE'S INVENTORY  
[R.C. 2109.58]**

| Description of Real and Personal Property | Value |
|---|-------|
|   | \$    |

[use additional pages, if necessary]

**RECAPITULATION**

Total Value of Personal Estate ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Value of Real Estate ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Rent of Real Estate ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other Annual Income ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee



**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

TRUST OF \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE BENEFIT OF \_\_\_\_\_

CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**TRUSTEE'S ACCOUNT**

[R.C. 2109.30]

The trustee offers an account of the trust and has attached an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements.

The trustee states that the account is true and correct, and asks that it be approved and settled.

**[Check one of the following]**

This is the \_\_\_\_\_ partial account for the period from \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) to \_\_\_\_\_. A statement of the assets remaining in the trustee's hands is attached.

This is a final and distributive account, and the trustee asks to be discharged upon its approval and settlement.

This account is recapitulated as follows:

**RECEIPTS**

Balance brought forward from inventory or previous account ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Income..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other receipts ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total receipts ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Fiduciary fees (this accounting period) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney fees (this accounting period) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other administration costs and expenses ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other disbursements ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total disbursements ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BALANCE REMAINING IN FIDUCIARY'S HANDS ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee

---

**BANK CERTIFICATE**

**N.B. Must be executed when funds are on deposit.**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within names trustee, on the date named below, had on deposit in

the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio the sum  
of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ to the credit of the trust of  
Nature of Deposit

\_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bank

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Cashier

\_\_\_\_\_ Trustee

---

**BANK CERTIFICATE**

**N.B. Must be executed when funds are on deposit**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within named trustee, on the date named below, had on deposit in

the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, Ohio  
the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ to the credit of the trust of  
Nature of Deposit

\_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bank

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Cashier

\_\_\_\_\_ Trustee









**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

**TRUST OF  
GUARDIANSHIP OF  
ESTATE OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON ACCOUNT**

To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

You are hereby notified that a \_\_\_\_\_ account covering the period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ has been filed, and the hearing will be held on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_ M. The Court is located at the William Howard Taft Center, 230 East Ninth Street, Ninth Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2145.

You are required to examine the account, to inquire into the contents of the account, and into all matters that may come before the Court at the hearing on the account. Any exceptions to the account shall be filed in writing not less than five days prior to the hearing. Absent the filing of written exceptions, the account may be approved without further notice.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fiduciary/Attorney for Fiduciary  
Attorney Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_





**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

**TRUST OF  
GUARDIANSHIP OF  
ESTATE OF \_\_\_\_\_**

**CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**ENTRY SETTING HEARING ON ACCOUNT**

The Court sets \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_ M.  
as the date and time for hearing on the current/final account in this matter. If notice is required,  
the Court orders that notice of the hearing on the account be given to all parties entitled to notice,  
who do not waive the same, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date and time set for  
hearing.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney

Attorney Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROBATE COURT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO  
RALPH WINKLER, JUDGE**

**TRUST OF  
GUARDIANSHIP OF  
ESTATE OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**CASE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY APPROVING AND SETTLING ACCOUNT**

[R.C. 2109.32]

Upon hearing the account filed \_\_\_\_\_, the Court finds that:

**[Check whichever of the following are applicable]**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ partial account has been lawfully administered.
- The events have occurred after which the Court may approve and settle a final account.
- The events have occurred after which the Court may approve and settle a supplemental final account.

The account is therefore approved and settled.

**[Check whichever of the following are applicable]**

The fiduciary shall be discharged without further order of the Court twelve months following the approval of the final and distributive account unless discharged by this entry.

- The fiduciary is discharged herewith.
- The surety bond is terminated herewith.
- This is a final account of a (deceased) (removed) (resigned) fiduciary. The estate shall remain open.
- This is a final account of the guardianship for the estate only. This matter shall continue as a person only guardianship.
- This is a final account of a beneficiary of a trust. The trust estate shall remain open for other beneficiaries of the trust.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge