

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A WRONGFUL DEATH TRUST

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

If you have a wrongful death settlement and you have decided to create a trust for the benefit of the decedent's beneficiaries under the age of 25, the following information and forms are designed to offer procedural guidance and direction to accomplish this task.

This trust shall be administered as any other trust in the Probate Court. Bond shall be required of every non-corporate fiduciary unless bond is waived according to law.

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 9th floor of the Probate Court, 230 E. 9th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio or by downloading the forms from the web site.

PROCEDURAL STEPS

Step 1: Complete the following forms	
Application to Create a [Wrongful Death] Trust and to Approve the Trust form. (H.C. Form 115.54) - Complete form. Note: This application is filed in the decedent's estate.	Filed in the decedent's estate
Entry Setting Hearing (H.C. Form 202.00) - Fill in the name of the decedent only, the magistrate will fill in the hearing date & time and initial the entry.	Filed in the decedent's estate
Entry Creating Trust and Approving Trust Form (H.C. 115.55) - Complete form. Bring to Court on the day of the hearing. - If the WRONGFUL DEATH TRUST is approved, the Judge will sign the trust as the grantor.	Filed in the decedent's estate after the hearing
Application for Appointment of a Trust (H.C. 54.1) - Complete form. - This application will be given a new case number.	Filed at the time the Application to Create Trust is filed. Set for hearing same day and time.
Entry Setting Hearing (H.C. Form 202.00) - Fill in the name of the decedent only, the magistrate will fill in the hearing date & time and initial the entry.	Given the same date and time as the Application to Create Trust
Trustee's Bond (H.C. 54.3) - When applying to be appointed trustee, the applicant is required to execute a bond. - Applicant must execute and date form.	Once signed by the applicant, the bond form needs to be left with the Court in order for the agent

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bond must be executed by a surety company in front of the court personnel. - The bond shall be twice the value of the assets funding the trust, with a minimum bond requirement of \$20,000. 	<p>of the surety company to execute the bond in the presence of the clerk.</p> <p>May be left with the Court anytime prior to the hearing.</p>
<p>Application for Release of Funds to Custodial Depository in Lieu of Bond (H.C.204.05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete form. - Filed when there is not an attorney and applicant does not want to obtain one. - Filed to dispense with requirement of joint control with an attorney, posting of a bond and filing of fiduciary accounts. 	<p>Normally the day of the hearing</p>
<p>Entry Releasing Funds to Custodial Depository in Lieu of Bond (H.C. 204.06)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete form. - Make sure you have obtained an account number from the bank. 	<p>Normally the day of the hearing</p>
<p>Verification of Receipt and Deposit of Custodial Depository (H.C. 204.07)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A bank clerk completes form once the funds are in the account. - Normally the bank sends the form to the court. 	<p>Filed by the bank, normally within 30 days from filing of Entry Releasing Funds to Custodial Depository</p>
<p>Entry Appointing Trustee; Letters of Authority (H.C. 54.4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete form. - If the Judge approves the WRONGFUL DEATH TRUST, he will sign the entry. 	<p>Preferably at the time of initial filing, if not, day of hearing.</p>
<p>Irrevocable Trust Agreement (H.C. 154.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This agreement is to be signed by the trustee and then delivered to the 10th floor Assignment Desk for presentation to the Judge. - Any deviations from this form shall be brought to the attention of the court in advance of the hearing date. - A copy of the trust will be filed in the decedent's estate file. The original signed trust will be filed under the wrongful death trust. 	
<p>THE NEXT GROUP OF FORMS IS NOT NEEDED AT THE INITIAL FILING.</p>	
<p>Trustee's Inventory (H.C. Form 54.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The trustee must file an inventory specifically listing the assets of the trust and the value of those assets. 	<p>3 months from date of appointment</p>
<p>Trustee's Account (H.C. Form 54.8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From the date of appointment, the trustee is responsible for filing on account every 2 years. - On back of Trustee's Account (form 54.8), have an employee of each bank where trust funds are deposited complete a bank certificate. - Trustee must sign form. 	<p>Every 2 years starting with date of appointment</p>
<p>Receipts and Disbursements (H.C. Form 54.81)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specifically list the assets of the trust that were listed on the Inventory (54.5) plus all income and disbursements made. 	<p>Filed with account</p>

<p>Assets Remaining in Trustee's Hands (H.C. Form 54.82)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete form if filing a current account. - Specifically describe those assets of the trust remaining in trustee's hands. 	
<p>Entry Setting Hearing on Account (H.C. 213.8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fill in the name of the ward and have attorney sign. - The account clerk will fill in hearing date & time and sign & date the form. 	Filed with account.
<p>Notice of Hearing on Account (H.C. 13.5) Waiver of Notice of Hearing (H.C. 13.7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When filing a <i>current</i> account, all <i>income</i> beneficiaries are entitled to be notified of the hearing on the account. - When filing a <i>final</i> account, all <i>trust</i> residual beneficiaries are entitled to be notified of the hearing on the account. - 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) - 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. 	
<p>Entry Approving and Settling Account (H.C. 13.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fill in name of the ward and case number. - Magistrate will complete form on the day of the account hearing. 	
<p>STEP 2: ASSIGNING OF MAGISTRATE, REVIEWING OF FORMS, AND SETTING HEARING DATE.</p>	
<p>When all forms have been completed, present them to the magistrate's assistant at the information desk on the 9th Floor of Probate Court where the clerk will write the initials of the magistrate who is handling the estate on the form. From the magistrate's assistant you will go to the assignment desk on the 10th floor to obtain a hearing on the Judge's docket.</p>	
<p>STEP 3: FILING OF FORMS WITH CASHIER</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 give it to the Issue Desk.</p>	

STEP 4: THE HEARING – WHAT TO EXPECT

At the date and time of the hearing, you (and your attorney, if an attorney is obtained) should report to the 10th Floor of the Probate Court to Courtroom A. (The Judge 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 Judge. The Judge will conduct the hearing, and if he approves the trust he will sign the Entry Creating Trust and Approving Trust Form (H.C. 115.55) to be filed under the estate number, 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, the Irrevocable Trust Agreement and if the settlement was also set on this day, he would sign that entry also. The bailiff will escort you to the Issue Desk and have the clerk certify a copy of the Entry Appointing Trustee; Letters of Authority signed by the Judge. If letters cannot be issued on the day of the hearing the file will be returned to the Issue Desk. Once the letters are ready to be issued, you must retrieve the file from the Issue Desk on the 9th floor and take it to the Assignment Desk on the 10th floor where the clerk will give the file to the Judge for his signature.

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

GUARDIANSHIP OF _____

CASE NO. _____

**APPLICATION TO CREATE TRUST
AND APPROVE TRUST FORM**

Applicant is the guardian of the (estate) (person and estate) of the ward and has received funds for the benefit of the ward as a result of a personal injury settlement or other (specify): _____ . Applicant states that it would be in the best interest of the ward to create a trust for the ward pursuant to R.C. 2111.50(B)(3), for the reasons set forth in the attached Memorandum.

Applicant prays for an order of the Court authorizing the creation of a special needs trust or other (specify): _____ and approval of the trust form.

Attorney for Applicant

Applicant

Attorney Registration No. _____

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

IN THE MATTER OF _____

CASE NO. _____

ENTRY CREATING TRUST AND APPROVING TRUST FORM

This cause came on to be heard upon an application to create a [select one of the following]: wrongful death trust special needs trust other (specify)

The Court finds that _____ is the guardian of the (person and estate) (estate only) of the ward and has received funds for the benefit of the ward and that it would be in the best interest of the ward that the Court create a trust for the ward pursuant to R.C. 2111.50 (B)(3).

It is therefore ordered that a [select one of the following] wrongful death trust special needs trust other (specify) _____ be created for the benefit of the ward. The trust is hereby approved as to form and shall be administered under Case No. _____

Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge

**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. _____

CONSENT TO APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE

[Check one of the following]:

The undersigned, being adult beneficiaries or guardians of minor beneficiaries of the trust, do hereby consent to the appointment of _____ as Trustee of the wrongful death trust.

The undersigned, being guardian of said minor or incompetent, does hereby consent to the appointment of _____ as Trustee of the special needs trust.

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**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**

IN THE MATTER OF _____

CASE NO. _____

IRREVOCABLE TRUST AGREEMENT

This Agreement, entered into this _____ day of _____, _____ by and between RALPH WINKLER, PROBATE JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO, as Grantor pursuant to the statutory authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 2125.03, and _____ as Trustee.

Section 1. Trust Property. The Grantor desires to create a trust authorized by Ohio Revised Code Section 2125.03 for the purpose of receiving the sum of _____ . Said sum is the proceeds from the wrongful death settlement due and payable to _____ , the child of _____ .

Section 2. Disposition of Trust Property. The sole beneficiary of said trust, _____ is to receive the principal and accumulated undistributed net income from the trust when he/she attains the age of twenty-five (25) years. The Trustee, may, if the beneficiary attends a college, technical school, or other accredited institution of higher education, use the trust estate to pay the tuition, fees room and board, and other expenses associated with the beneficiary attending such school only with the permission of the Court.

Additionally, the Trustee may also apply to the Court for permission to expend such amounts of the accumulated income and/or principal of the trust estate as the Trustee

deems necessary to provide for the beneficiary's health, education, comfort, maintenance and support, or to meet any emergency expense of the beneficiary. Funds may be expended for the foregoing items in the paragraph only upon the approval of the Probate Court.

Section 3. Trustee's Responsibility and Authority. The Trustee shall invest the trust funds as provided under Ohio Revised Code Section 2109.37, 2109.371 and 2109.372. Further, the Trustee shall have the authority to pay all income annually as is necessary to pay taxes on said income, college tuition and expenses, and to pay any other expenses incurred as a result of his/her duties under the Trust, including his/her fiduciary bond. The Trustee shall make accounts to the Court on a biennial basis, or at such other times as the Court may require. The Trustee shall incur no liability in handling the Trust estate, provided he/she exercises duties and responsibilities in a reasonable and prudent manner, and complies with the terms of this agreement. The Trustee accepts the Trust hereby created and agrees to carry out the provisions herein on her part to be done and performed, without compensation.

Section 4. Miscellaneous. The Trust being created shall be deemed to be an Ohio Trust, and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Ohio.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The parties hereto have executed this Agreement in duplicate as of the day and year first above written.

WITNESSES:

RALPH WINKLER, Probate Judge

Trustee

Typed or Printed Name

**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

_____ Bank

Dated _____

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

_____ Bank

Dated _____

By _____
Cashier

_____ Trustee

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

TRUST OF _____

FOR THE BENEFIT OF _____

CASE NO. _____

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

[Attach to trustee's account]

Following is an itemized statement of receipts and disbursements by the trustee in the administration of the trust.

Item	Voucher No.	Value or Amount	Value or Amount
		\$	\$

Fiduciary

CASE NO. _____

Page _____ of _____ pages

Item	Voucher No.	Value or Amount	Value or Amount
		\$	\$

_____ Trustee

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

TRUST OF _____

FOR THE BENEFIT OF _____

CASE NO. _____

ASSETS REMAINING IN TRUSTEE'S HANDS

[Attach to partial account of trustee]

Page _____ of _____ pages

The trust assets remaining in the trustee's hands are recapitulated as follows:

Tangible personal property\$ _____

Intangible personal property\$ _____

 Total personal property\$ _____

Real Estate\$ _____

 Total assets remaining in trustees's hands\$ _____

Following is an itemized statement of trust assets remaining in the trustee's hands.

Item	Value or Amount	Value or Amount
	\$	\$

CASE NO. _____

Page _____ of _____ pages

Item	Value or Amount	Value or Amount
	\$	\$

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. _____

WAIVER OF NOTICE OF HEARING ON ACCOUNT

The undersigned, who are interested in the estate, waive notice of the hearing on the account.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**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