INSTRUCTIONS FOR ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST

These instructions are intended as a <u>guideline only</u> and should not be relied upon as a comprehensive list of duties in a special needs trust.

The following information and forms are designed to offer procedural advice and direction to accomplish this task.

If you have a settlement for the benefit of a minor or an alleged incompetent with special needs, it may be in the ward's best interest to establish a SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST.

First, it is necessary for a guardian to be appointed for the minor or alleged incompetent. Second, the guardian shall apply for the approval of the settlement for the benefit of the minor or incompetent. This guardian is also the person who will apply for the SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST.

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, certified check, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express. No personal checks or money orders will be accepted.

The forms may be obtained from the Information 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

TROCEDURAL STEES	
Step 1: Complete the following forms	
Self-Representation Form (270.01)	At the time of filing
- Sign and Complete information if you do not have legal representation	_
Trust Beneficiaries (H.C. 54.0)	At the time of filing
- Complete form.	_
- Be sure to specify <i>complete</i> addresses of all of those listed.	
Application to Create a [Special Needs] Trust and to Approve the Trust form.	Filed in the guardianship
(H.C. Form 115.54)	
- Complete form.	
- This application is filed as part of the guardianship proceedings.	
- The specific reasons for seeking a SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST must be	
clearly explained in a memorandum.	
A copy of the application together with the proposed SPECIAL	
NEEDS TRUST should be delivered to the Chief Magistrate so the	
Judge may review the proposed trust before the hearing.	
Entry Setting Hearing (H.C. Form 202.00)	Filed in the guardianship
- Fill in the name of the ward only, the magistrate will fill in the hearing	
date and time and initial the entry.	

Entry Creating Trust and Approving Trust Form (H.C. 115.55)	Filed in the guardianship
- Complete form.	after the hearing
- Bring to Court on the day of the hearing.	
- If the SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST is approved, the Judge will sign it.	

Application for Appointment of a Trust (H.C. 54.1) - Complete form. - This application will be given a separate 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 ward only, the magistrate will fill in the hearing date and time and initial the entry.	Given the same date and time as the Application to Create Trust
 Special Needs Trust Agreement There is no prescribed trust form. Counsel are directed to 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1396p(d)(4)(A) and Ohio Administrative Code 5101-1-39-271 for guidance in drafting said trusts. The guardian shall be identified as the settlor of said trust. No trust shall be approved which seeks to give unfettered discretion for disbursements to the trustee. 	
 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. 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. 	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. 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) - 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.	Normally the day of the hearing
 Entry Releasing Funds to Custodial Depository in Lieu of Bond (H.C. 204.06) Complete form. Make sure you have obtained an account number from the bank. 	Normally the day of the hearing
Verification of Receipt and Deposit of Custodial Depository (H.C. 204.07) - A bank clerk completes form once the funds are in the account. - Normally the bank sends the form to the court.	Filed by the bank, normally within 30 days from filing of Entry Releasing Funds to Custodial Depository
Entry Appointing Trustee;Letters of Authority (H.C. 54.4) - Complete form.	Preferably at the time of initial filing. Otherwise, the

- If the Judge approves the SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST agreement, the magistrate will sign the entry.	day of the hearing.
THE NEXT GROUP OF FORMS IS NOT NEEDED AT THE INITIAL	
FILING. Trusto's Inventory (I.C. Form 54.5)	3 months from date of
 Trustee's Inventory (H.C. Form 54.5) The trustee must file an inventory specifically listing the assets of the trust and the value of those assets. 	appointment
Trustee's Account (H.C. Form 54.8)	Every 2 years starting with
- From the date of appointment, the trustee is responsible for filing an account every 2 years.	date of appointment
- 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.	
Receipts and Disbursements (H.C. Form 54.81)	Filed with account
- Specifically list the assets of the trust that were listed on the Inventory (54.5) plus all income and disbursements made.	
Assets Remaining in Trustee's Hands (H.C. Form 54.82)	
- Complete form if filing a current account.	
 Specifically describe those assets of the trust remaining in trustee's hands. 	
Entry Setting Hearing on Account (H.C. 213.8)	Filed with account.
- Fill in the caption and have attorney sign.	
- The account clerk will fill in hearing date & time and sign & date the	
form.	
Notice of Hearing on Account (H.C. 13.5)	
Waiver of Notice of Hearing (H.C. 13.7)	
- 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> 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.	
Entry Approving and Settling Account (H.C. 13.3)	
- Fill in the caption and case number.	
- Magistrate will complete form on the day of the account hearing.	
STEP 2: ASSIGNING OF MAGISTRATE, REVIEWING OF FORMS,	
AND SETTING HEARING DATE.	
When the initial forms have been completed, present them to the magistrate's	
assistant at the information desk on the 9 th Issue Desk where the clerk will write	
the initials of the assigned magistrate on the form. From the Information Desk	
you will go to the assignment desk on the 10 th floor to obtain a hearing on the	
Judge's docket.	

STEP 3: FILING OF FORMS WITH CASHIER	
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 you to take to the Issue	
Desk.	
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 9 th 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	
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	
guardianship number. The Magistrate will sign the Entry Appointing Trustee;	
Letters of Authority (H.C. 54.4), but they cannot be issued until the Judge signs	
the trust agreement. Once the trust agreement is signed, you must go to the Issue	
Desk on the 9th Floor to have the original letters issued.	



A CITIZEN'S GUIDE TO COMMUNICATING WITH THE JUDGE AND MAGISTRATES

Why can't I communicate directly with the judge or magistrate on my case?

If the matters are contested, judges and magistrates are not allowed to communicate with individual parties. This is what the law calls an *ex-parte* communication (this is when a judge or magistrate only communicates with an individual party, on their own, without the knowledge of all parties to a case). In order to keep the court process as fair, equal and as transparent as possible, *ex-parte* communication is strictly forbidden. It is unfair for the court to share information without all of the parties present.

You cannot email the judge or magistrate, as the email is considered an *ex-parte* communication. In addition, emails are not pleadings (motions.) You cannot write a personal letter to the judge or magistrate as this may be considered an *ex-parte* communication.

How can I speak to the judge or magistrate on my case?

Typically, to speak to the judge or magistrate on your case, you must file a written motion with the court explaining what you want the court to do and all motions become part of the public record. You also have to send a copy of whatever you file to the other parties, or their attorney if they are represented by an attorney (this is called "service"). A motion is not considered an *exparte* communication because all parties are officially notified. You may be required to pay a filing fee when you file your written motion. Please note, there is no fee if you wish to speak to the magistrate in an uncontested matter, on their assigned walk-in days.

I've heard there's always a magistrate on duty to hear arguments immediately – what does that mean?

There is a magistrate on duty every business day. The on-duty magistrate may answer generic procedural questions. The on-duty magistrate may also discuss matters in an uncontested case. For all other matters, the on-duty magistrate is prohibited from speaking with you. To address the court for these matters, you must file a written motion. The on-duty magistrate will set the matter for hearing before the magistrate assigned on your case or the judge.

What if I need to tell the judge or magistrate something I don't want the other party to know about?

Unfortunately, you cannot withhold information from another party to your case. In order to keep the case fair to everyone involved, as soon as you tell the judge or magistrate something, you must also tell the other parties. All sides must have an opportunity to respond to the information that you have shared with the court.

IN THE	MATTER OF:		
CASE	CASE NO		
	SELF-REPRESENTATION ACKNOWLEDGMENT		
I ackn	owledge that I have read, understand and agree with all of the following statements:		
1.	The Court has recommended that I hire an attorney to represent me in this case. However, I have chosen to proceed with this case without the assistance of an attorney.		
2.	The Court and its Deputy Clerks are prohibited by law from providing legal advice. I will follow the instructions provided in the form packets and on the Court's website, www.probatect.org.		
3.	3. I am responsible for understanding and correctly applying any statutes, case law, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures that relate to this case, including, but not limited to, the Ohio Revised Code, Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio, Hamilton County Probate Court Local Rules of Practice, and the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure.		
4.	4. The same standards that apply to attorneys and persons represented by attorneys in similar probate hearings will apply to myself.		
5.	5. If I do not fulfill my responsibilities in this case as required by law, I may be subject to sanctions or penalties as provided by law, which may include removal as fiduciary or being required to be represented by an attorney.		
6.	6. I may be personally liable to any person or entity that suffers damages as a result of anything I do or fail to do in this case that does not comply with the legal requirements.		
	Fiduciary/Applicant/Guardian		
	Typed Printed Name		
	Address		
	City/State/Zip		
	Telephone Number (include area code)		

Email

IN THE MATTER OF	
CASE NO	
	O CREATE TRUST E TRUST FORM
Applicant is the □ guardian □ trust	ee and has received funds for the benefit of
the \square ward \square beneficiary as a result of	a \square personal injury settlement or \square other
(specify):	Applicant states that it would be in the best
interest of the \square ward \square beneficiary to σ	create a trust for the □ ward □ beneficiary
pursuant to ☐ R.C. 2111.50(B)(3) ☐ R.C. 2	2125.03 (A)(2), for the reasons set forth in the
attached Memorandum.	
Applicant prays for an order of the	Court authorizing the creation of a \square special
needs trust or □ other (specify):	and approval of the
trust form.	
Attorney for Applicant	 Applicant

Attorney Registration No._____

IN THE MATTER OF			
CASE NO			
ENTRY CI	REATING TRUST AN	ND APPROVING T	RUST FORM
This caus	se came on to be heard up	oon an application to crea	ate a [select one of
the following]:	☐ wrongful death trust	☐ special needs trust	□ other (specify)
	rt finds that		is the
□ guardian □	trustee and has received	funds for the benefit	of the □ ward □
beneficiary and	that it would be in the best	interest of the □ ward □	beneficiary that the
Court create a t	rust pursuant to □ R.C. 211	1.50 (B)(3) □ R.C. 2125.0	03 (A)(2).
It is there	efore ordered that a [select	one of the following] \square v	vrongful death trust
☐ special needs	s trust □ other (specify)	 	be created
for the benefit	of the ward. The trust is	hereby approved as to	form and shall be
administered un	nder Case No	·	
		Ralph Winkler, Proba	te Judge

TRUS	OF	
FOR THE BENEFIT OF		
CASE	NO	
	TRUST BENEFICIARIES	
The fo	owing are beneficiaries of the trust:	
Name	Residence I = Income Beneficiary Birthdate Address R= Remainder Beneficiary of Minor	
[Checl	vhichever of the following is applicable]	
[]	The Will contains a charitable trust or a bequest or devise to a charitable trust, subject to Revised Code Section 109.23 and 109.41.	
[]	The Will is not subject to Revised Code Sections 109.23 and 109.41, relating to charitable trusts.	
Date	Applicant (or give other title)	

TRUST OF	
FOR THE BENEFIT OF	
CASE NO	
APPLICATION FOR	THE APPOINTMENT OF A TRUSTEE
according to [Check one]: □ the terms of	, a resident of Hamilton County, Ohio, and hereby e of said Estate and agrees to perform the duties of said office said Will (and Codicil/s) under Item the wrongful death cify), for the benefit of
Your applicant represents that said	trust estate is estimated as follows:
	Personal Property \$
Wherefore your applicant asks to be sum of \$ with t	appointed Trustee and presents a bond as such Trustee in the the following surety:
by the Court. Applicant acknowledges that	be imposed by law, and such additional duties as may be required he/she may be removed as fiduciary for failure to perform such as that he/she may be subject to criminal penalties for improper ry.
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.	

TRU	ST OF		
FOR	THE BENEFIT OF		
	E NO		
	CONSENT TO APP	OINT	MENT OF TRUSTEE
[Che	ck one of the following]:		
	The undersigned, being adult bene	eficiarie	es or guardians of minor beneficiaries of the
	trust, do hereby consent to the app	oointme	ent of
	as Trustee of	the wro	ongful death trust.
	The undersigned, being guardian of	The undersigned, being guardian of said minor or incompetent, does hereby cons	
	the appointment of		as Trustee of the special needs
	trust.		
		_	
		_	
		_	
		_	
		_	
		_	
		_	

TRUST OF			
FOR T	THE BENEFIT OF		
CASE	E NO		
	TRUSTI	EE'S BOND	
	Amount of Bond \$		
payme		are obligated to the State of Ohio in the above amount, for s, 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. () special needs trust [R.C. 2111.50(B)(3)] () minor trust [R.C. 2111.182] 	.03]	
Said d	uties include the following:		
1.	Make and return to the Court, on oath, as provide the real and personal property belonging to the	ed by and within the time required by law a true inventory of Frust;	
2.	Administer and distribute according to law and to Trust;	he Trust all the real and personal property belonging to the	
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.		
fails to		s as required. This obligation remains in force if the principal negligently, or improperly, or if the principal misuses or them to his own use or the use of another.	
	[Check if personal sureties are involved] -	ne sureties certify that each of them owns real estate in this	
county	v, with a reasonable net value as stated below.		
Date		Principal	
Surety		Surety	
By By		<u>By</u>	
Attorne	ey in Fact	Attorney in Fact	
Typed o	or Printed Name	Typed or Printed Name	
Address	S	Address	
Net va	alue of real estate owned in this county	Net value of real estate owned in this county	

TRUST OF	
FOR THE BENEFIT OF	
CASE NO	
ENTRY APPOINTI	NG TRUSTEE; LETTERS OF AUTHORITY
Name of Trustee:	
Name(s) of Co-Trustee(s) [if a	ny]:
that the applicant is a suitable	rt on the application for appointment of trustee, the Court finds and competent person to execute the trust, that applicant has ities as Trustee, and that the Trustee's Bond has been [Check
□ waived u	l approved under the decedent's Will according to law.
The Court therefore appoint the trustee's letters of authority.	oints applicant as Trustee. This entry of appointment constitutes
Date	Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge
CERTIFICATE	OF APPOINTMENT AND INCUMBENCY
	is a true copy of the original kept by me as custodian of the itutes the appointment and letters of authority of the named cting in such capacity.
[Seal]	Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge/Clerk
	Date

TRUST OF	
FOR THE BENEFIT OF	
CASE NO	
TRUSTEE'S IN [R.C. 2109.	
Description of Real and Personal Property	Value
	\$
[use additional pages	s, if necessary]
RECAPITU	JLATION
Total Value of Personal Estate	\$\$
Total Value of Real Estate	\$
Yearly Rent of Real Estate	\$
OtherAnnual Income	\$
Total	······\$
	Trustee

H.C. FORM 54.5 - TRUSTEE'S INVENTORY

TRUS	ST OF		
	THE BENEFIT OF		
CASE	E NO		
		E'S ACCOUNT :. 2109.30]	
disbur	The trustee offers an account of the trust sements. The trustee states that the account is true and		·
	[Check one of the following]		
	This is the partial (Number) to A stater	I account for the period from	ne trustee's hands is attached.
	This is a final and distributive account, and the t		
	This account is recapitulated as follows:		
RECE	IPTS		
	Balance brought forward from inventory or pro-	revious account	\$
	Income		§
	Other receipts		s\$
	Total receipts		\$
DISBU	JRSEMENTS		
	Fiduciary fees (this accounting period)	\$	<u></u>
	Attorney fees (this accounting period)	\$	
	Other administration costs and expenses	\$\$	
	Other disbursements	\$	<u> </u>
	Total disbursements	\$	
BALA	NCE REMAINING IN FIDUCIARY'S HANDS		\$
Date	_	Trustee	_

CASE NO.	
----------	--

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 \$______ to the credit of the trust of Nature of Deposit Bank By Cashier Dated_____ 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 _____ to the credit of the trust of Nature of Deposit the sum of \$ on Bank Dated____ Trustee

TRUST OF			
FOR THE BENEFIT OF			
CASE NO.			
RE	ECEIPTS AND DISBURS	SEMENTS	
	[Attach to trustee's account]		
Following is an itemized strust.	statement of receipts and disburseme	ents by the trustee in the	administration of the
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

TRUS	ST OF		
FOR	THE BENEFIT OF		
	E NO		
	ASSETS REMA	AINING IN TRUSTEE'S HAN	DS
	[Attach	to partial account of trustee]	
Page_	of pages		
	The trust assets remaining in the truste	ee's hands are recapitulated as follows:	
	Tangible personal property	\$\$	
	Intangible personal property	\$\$	
	Total personal property	\$\$	
	Real Estate	\$\$	
	Total assets remaining in truste	ees's hands\$\$	
Follow	wing is an itemized statement of trust ass	sets remaining in the trustee's hands.	
Item	1	Value or Amount	Value or Amount
		\$	\$

	CASE NO	
D		
Page of	pages	
•	Value or	Value or
Item		
	Amount	Amount
	\$	\$

Trustee

TRUST OF GUARDIANSHIP OF ESTATE OF	
CASE NO	
ENTRY SETTING	HEARING ON ACCOUNT
as the date and time for hearing on the cu the Court orders that notice of the hearing of	at o'clock M. arrent/final account in this matter. If notice is required, on the account be given to all parties entitled to notice, (15) days prior to the date and time set for
Date	Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge
Attorney Attorney Registration No	_

TRUST OF GUARDIANSHIP OF ESTATE OF		
CASE NO		
WAIVER OF NOTICE O	F HE	EARING ON ACCOUNT
The undersigned, who are interested in the ear	state, v	waive notice of the hearing on the account.
	_	
	_	
	_	
	_	
	_ ,	
	_	
	_	
	- '	

GUARDIANSHIP OF ESTATE OF	
CASE NO	
NOTICE OF HEAR	RING ON ACCOUNT
То:	
	_
	account covering the period from has been filed, and
the hearing will be held on	ato'clockM.
The Court is located at the William Howard	Taft Center, 230 East Ninth Street, Ninth Floor,
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-2145.	
•	quire into the contents of the account, and into all
•	earing on the account. There is no requirement to
	ions to the account. Any exceptions to the account
exceptions, the account may be approved without	s prior to the hearing. Absent the filing of written
exceptions, the docount may be approved with	out futurer froutee.
	Fiduciary/Attorney for Fiduciary
	Attorney Registration No

IN RE	:
CASE	E NO
NOT	TICE OF RETRIEVING DOCUMENTATION FOR ACCOUNTS
Checl	k the box indicating how the supporting documentation, copies and/or account forms
left wi	ith the accounting department should be handled after the account is reviewed.
	Mail back documents in enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. If no envelope -
	will be charged to mail back
	Place documents in the Attorney Mailbox (will pick up within 30 days).
	Mailbox No
	Destroy documents (shred).
	THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON REASONS FOR REJECTIONS SO PLEASE MAKE SURE THESE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED (If pertains to the type of Account being filed)
	Starting balance matches Inventory/most recent Partial/Current Account
	Original Signature on Account
	Total Receipts and Distributions balance
	Newly Discovered Asset (Form 106.11)
	Attorney Fees (Consents - Form 210.05 or Application and Entry with timesheets
	for fees over \$2,000)
	Paid funeral bill
Signa	uture Date

MATTER OF	
CAS	SE NO
	ENTRY APPROVING AND SETTLING ACCOUNT [R.C. 2109.32]
Upo	n hearing the account filed, the Court finds that:
[Ch	eck 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.
[Ch	eck whichever of the following are applicable]
	fiduciary shall be discharged without further order of the Court twelve months following the roval 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.
Nam	ne of Fiduciary:

Date

Ralph Winkler, Probate Judge