

**About****Matthew Crider, J.D.**

Matthew Crider formed [Crider Law PC](#) in 1999 so he could help individuals and business owners by providing creative solutions and be their trusted advisor and legal counselor. He serves his clients by listening closely to their goals, dreams and concerns and working with them to develop superior and comprehensive estate and asset protection plans. His estate planning practice focuses on preserving and growing wealth by providing comprehensive, highly personalized estate planning counsel to couples, families, individuals and businesses.

Naming a trustee the key to setting up a trust

By Matthew Crider, JD | Family Wealth Protection Attorney

If you are planning to leave property or other assets to heirs by using a trust, one of the most important considerations is deciding who will run the trust once you are gone.

The person you chose -- your fiduciary -- is responsible for managing the assets in the trust and making distributions to your loved ones in line with your wishes.

The trustee you name must be willing to carry out your wishes no matter his or her personal feelings about them.

Often, people choose a family member, close friend or business associate to do the job, which can require a good amount of time to do right. Others prefer to hire a professional, such as a bank or trust company.

The decision on who to pick as a trustee hinges on a number of factors, including the amount of money being managed in the trust, according to an article in the Wall Street Journal.

Trustees usually get paid a fee, and professional firms may have minimum fees they charge no matter the size of the trust. If the amount of money in the trust is small, say, under \$50,000, it is probably best to choose an individual to do it, since the fee charged by a company would likely be too large for the size of the trust.

But even larger trusts don't necessarily require professional management.

If the trust is straightforward without a lot of complicated provisions, it may be best to have a family member or close friend run it. Still, the person you choose must have the skill to do it right.

If there is friction between family members named in the trust, it may be best to hire a professional because the work load can turn out to be very heavy if the beneficiaries do not get along.