

Trustees for Living Trusts in California

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A principal assigns a trustee to control the trust, and **in California the principal can also be the trustee. So the person who establishes and funds the trust can also act as trustee of the trust.** If the trust is to [continue](#) after the principal can no longer manage the trust (through illness or death) the trust must have either a co-trustee or a successor trustee designated to take over automatically.

Maintaining Control

Trust documents should be drafted to assign layers of control in the event of incapacity by any one trustee so there is always someone designated to step up and control the trust assets as directed in the trust documents. The transfer of control over trust assets can then be accomplished without court intervention and without legal fees.

Professional Trustees

A Professional or Corporate Fiduciary can also serve as trustee, co-trustee or successor trustee. Fees vary for this service but a professional can be very helpful in offering management advice for investment strategies and tax issues.
