

How to Choose a Trustworthy Trustee

By: Hyatt and Weber

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Recently, a grandmother in Indiana who had been named Trustee of an educational trust benefitting her grandson gambled away most of the trust funds at a casino. This is just one example of a blood relative not necessarily being the best choice for a trustworthy Trustee.

While many people choose family members to be Trustees, your primary objective should be to choose a person who would do the best job, regardless of their relationship to you. If you don't feel one family member would serve well, there are other options including:

- Naming two co-Trustees to ensure accountability
- Naming a professional Trustee, which is a bank or other financial institution
- Selecting a trust protector to oversee Trustee decisions

If family members find that a Trustee is untrustworthy, they can petition the court to have that Trustee removed so long as the trust provides for this type of Court intervention. Before establishing a trust, consult with a Maryland estate planning attorney, who can provide guidance on structuring your trust to help protect assets from an untrustworthy Trustee.

An experienced [Maryland estate planning attorney](#) can help you understand all your options for estate planning. Experienced Estate Planning Attorneys Linda T. Cox and Seth B. Zirkle can discuss all your options and create a plan with you. **Call Ms. Cox or Mr. Zirkle at Hyatt & Weber, P.A. today at 410-505-4553** **begin_of_the_skype_highlighting 410-505-4553 end_of_the_skype_highlighting.**