



## Andrea L. Jakob, PA

*Legal knowledge, human wisdom:  
Helping you plan today, so you can  
sleep better tonight.*

## Trust Funding & Common Questions

### ✓ **Myth: Once I sign my trust, I'm done.**

#### **Not quite.**

Signing your trust is just the beginning. A trust only controls the assets that are actually *in* the trust. That means you need to **transfer ownership** of your accounts and property to your trust. This process is called **trust funding**.

If something isn't in your trust and doesn't have a beneficiary or joint owner, it may have to go through **probate**—the court process we're trying to avoid. Even if you have a special backup document called a **pour-over will**, it still means your loved ones deal with delays, costs, and court involvement.

**Bottom line:** Funding your trust during your lifetime helps ensure everything goes smoothly for your family later on.

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### ✓ **Myth: Everything I own needs to go into my trust.**

#### **Not exactly.**

Some things *shouldn't* be put into your trust—like **retirement accounts (IRAs, 401(k)s, etc.)**. Changing the ownership of these accounts could affect their tax advantages. Instead, you should make sure **your beneficiaries are correctly named**.

Sometimes it makes sense to name a person (like your spouse), and sometimes it makes sense to name your **trust as the beneficiary**—especially if you want to control how and when those funds are used.

**Best bet:** Talk to us before making changes, so we can help align your decisions with your goals.

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## 💬 **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ❓ **Is funding a trust hard?**

#### **It depends on what you own.**

You can usually handle basic bank and investment accounts yourself by using online forms or contacting your financial institution. For each account, you'll either:

- **Change ownership** to the trust, or
- **Name the trust as a beneficiary** (for “transfer-on-death” accounts).

We'll provide the exact wording to use.

Some things are trickier—like **real estate, business interests, or digital assets**—and may need help from our office or other professionals. Deeds, in particular, should always be reviewed and recorded correctly to protect your rights.

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## ? How can I help my trustee succeed?

### A little organization goes a long way.

1. **Make a list** of everything you own—accounts, real estate, valuables, etc. (You may have done this during the planning process.)
2. **Review it regularly**—especially after buying or selling anything significant.
3. **Check ownership and beneficiary info.** Are your accounts actually in the trust? Are the right people named?
4. **Make updates** where needed. We can help with forms or work directly with your bank, insurance agent, or advisor.
5. **Get confirmation.** Don't just assume everything was handled—make sure you receive proof from the institution that changes were made.
6. **My Handbook-** I wrote a simple handbook that can help your trustees figure out what to do.

**Pro tip:** Keep copies of confirmation letters or emails *with* your estate plan so your trustee can access them when needed.

We are here to help with any questions you have!

Looking forward to speaking with you,

Andrea

Watch this quick video