

Unlocking the Power of Trusts

At NovaPoint, we believe wealth planning is about more than just numbers. It's about making sure the assets you've worked hard to build are protected, thoughtfully managed, and passed down according to your wishes.

Trusts are a powerful part of that strategy. But with so many types available, it can be difficult to know which one is the best fit for your unique situation. This guide is designed to help you understand the most common types of trusts, how they work, and when they might make sense in your financial plan.

1. Living Trust

A living trust is created during your lifetime. It allows you to manage your assets while you're alive and decide how they'll be distributed after your death.

One of the main benefits of a living trust is that it helps your estate avoid probate. That means your financial affairs stay private, and your loved ones don't have to navigate a lengthy or costly legal process.

2. Revocable Trust

A revocable trust is a type of living trust that can be changed, updated, or dissolved at any time. It gives you flexibility and control, which is helpful if your circumstances or intentions shift over time.

While revocable trusts don't reduce estate taxes, they're an excellent option if you want to maintain control while ensuring a smooth and private transfer of assets.

3. Irrevocable Trust

An irrevocable trust, once created, typically cannot be altered. That might sound limiting, but the benefits can be significant.

By giving up ownership of the assets, you may be able to lower your estate tax liability and shield those assets from creditors. For individuals or families with high net worth, especially those above the federal estate tax exemption (\$13.99 million in 2025) this can be a key strategy.

Because of their complexity, these trusts usually require legal assistance. NovaPoint partners with experienced professionals to make the process more accessible and cost-effective.

4. Life Insurance Trust

If you have a significant life insurance policy, a life insurance trust can help keep the policy proceeds out of your taxable estate.

This type of trust not only offers potential tax savings but also gives you greater control over how the life insurance payout is distributed to your beneficiaries.

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5. Charitable Trust

A charitable trust allows you to donate assets to a charitable cause while receiving certain tax advantages. You can claim deductions, reduce estate taxes, and protect donated assets from creditors.

However, once you transfer assets into a charitable trust, they are no longer under your direct control, and you must follow IRS regulations closely.

6. Special Needs Trust

If you have a loved one with a disability, a special needs trust is a thoughtful way to provide financial support without affecting their eligibility for government assistance programs.

This type of trust helps maintain their quality of life while ensuring long-term financial security.

7. Testamentary Trust

A testamentary trust is written into your will and only goes into effect after your death. Unlike living trusts, it does not avoid probate, but it can provide structure for how your assets are managed and distributed.

These trusts are especially useful when leaving assets to minors or beneficiaries who may need help managing their inheritance.

Choosing the Right Trust for Your Needs

Each trust serves a different purpose, and the best choice depends on your goals — whether that's minimizing taxes, protecting your privacy, caring for a loved one, or supporting a cause.

At NovaPoint, we make it easy to understand your options. Whether you're starting with a simple revocable trust or looking into more advanced strategies, we guide you through the process clearly and efficiently. We also work with trusted estate attorneys to ensure you get the right legal support without the high legal fees.

Ready to Take the Next Step?

If you're considering how a trust might fit into your overall wealth plan, we're here to help. Contact NovaPoint to schedule a personalized consultation and start building a legacy that lasts.

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NovaPoint – Financial Planning and Wealth Management

To learn more about these topics and our investment strategies, call us at 404-445-7885 or [contact us here](#).

Do you understand your personal investment risk tolerance and the risk of your current portfolio? You can learn these by taking our [Risk Analysis Questionnaire](#).

The NovaPoint Team



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Joe has over 20 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to founding NovaPoint, he was a portfolio manager at Spectrum Advisory Services and GMT Capital in Atlanta, and Epoch Investment Partners in New York. He has also worked as an equity research analyst at Merrill Lynch and ABN Amro. Before beginning his investment career, Joe was an Infantry officer in the U.S. Army. Joe holds a BS from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is both a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and a Chartered Market Technician (CMT).



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Frederick has over 30 years of experience in the investment management industry. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Frederick was a Partner and Investment Advisor at Brightworth where he advised high net worth investors. Frederick began his investment career in 1991 at Balentine & Co where he rose to Partner. He also co-founded and served as Chief Investment Officer at Wright Investment Management and at Smith & Howard Wealth Management. Prior to beginning his investment career, Frederick served as an Engineer officer in the U.S. Army. He holds a BS from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from Emory University. Frederick is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).



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Meghan is an Investment Associate focusing on financial planning. Prior to joining NovaPoint, Meghan spent 18 years in government service as an Operations Officer in military intelligence. She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from the University of Maryland and a Master of Science from the Joint Military Intelligence College. Meghan has additional education specializing in financial planning and is a member of the Financial Planning Association.



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