

When acting as a Trustee during life (upon incapacity) or at death (or acting in any FIDUCIARY CAPACITY) you act as a business person, a CEO of a company. You will need to hire professionals & other folks to accomplish your fiduciary duties under the Probate Code. Below are some of the resources we use to find ethical and competent professionals.

### **Certified Specialist in Attorneys For California:**

California Bar

Association - <https://apps.calbar.ca.gov/members/lsearch.aspx>

Elder Law

Estate Planning & Probate Law

Taxation Law

### **National Directory**

National Elder Law Foundation – American Bar Association: <https://nelf.org/>

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys: <https://www.naela.org/>

### **Medical Decision Making Assistance:**

Ageing Life Care Association: <https://www.aginglifecare.org/>

Council on Ageing: <https://www.coasc.org/about/>

### **Professional Fiduciaries:**

State of California Licensing Bureau: <https://www.fiduciary.ca.gov/>

Professional Fiduciary Association of California: <https://pfac-pro.org/>

**Note:** Recommend you ask your elder law attorney for a recommendation since most elder law attorneys work with professional fiduciaries on a regular basis. Also, there is **NOT** a lot of investment management experience amongst professional fiduciaries and recommend highly you seek out a fee-only fiduciary registered investment manager for ongoing financial investments.

Fee-Only Financial Planning Networks: <https://www.napfa.org/find-an-advisor>

### **Accountants**

CPA for California: <https://www.dca.ca.gov/cba/consumers/>

Be sure they have experience in Fiduciary Accounting & Tax Returns

Be sure to use the **ASK FIRST** form with any professional you hire! Remember it is not always a good thing to be licensed in a particular area. For example; an attorney who is licensed in the insurance or securities I would see this as a red flag. Licenses are **NOT** credentials (**think of your drivers license**) – minimum level of knowledge to be in the license area.

**“Ask First!”** This form is to be filled out by any person who is offering legal, financial, retirement, insurance, accounting, estate, long-term care or similar planning services. Respond to **ALL** categories completely; sign and date at the bottom of the page.

**MY EDUCATION-** I have achieved the following level of education (check HIGHEST level achieved):

<input type="checkbox"/> Some High School	<input type="checkbox"/> High School Diploma	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelors Degree
<input type="checkbox"/> GED	<input type="checkbox"/> Some College	<input type="checkbox"/> Masters or other Advanced Degree

**MY CREDENTIAL(S)-** I have the following specialized credential(s) and training (examples: CFP, ChFC, CLU, CPA, JD, MBA, years of relevant experience):

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**MY RELEVANT LICENSE(S)-** I have the following license(s) giving me the legal authority to provide the services I am offering to you (examples: bar license (attorney); securities license; insurance license):

License Type	Covers What Activities	Issued By	License No.

**LEGAL SERVICES-** (Check ONE):

- I DO NOT practice law, and the services I am offering to you do not involve practicing law.
- I DO practice law, and have an active license to practice law in California.
- I DO practice law, but DO NOT have an active license to practice law in California.

**OUR BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP-** Check TRUE or FALSE:

- True /  False: In our business relationship, I will at all times serve as a fiduciary and put your interests before my interests and those of my employer.

**MY COMPENSATION-** I will be paid in the following way (commission, fee, salary, etc.), by the named person or company, in connection with the services I am offering to you:

Way(s) I'll Be Paid	Payment Will Be Made By (name each person or company)

**FINANCIAL PRODUCTS / AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS-** Check TRUE or FALSE:

- True /  False: I offer or sell annuities, insurance, mutual funds or other financial products; or I am, or my employer is, affiliated with a person or organization that offers or sells annuities, insurance, mutual funds or other financial products.

**I certify under penalty of perjury that the responses herein are true to the best of my knowledge.**

Date:	Business Name:
Signature:	Address:
Print Name:	Email: