

THE _____
LIVING TRUST
Dated _____

This Living Trust Agreement (this "Agreement"), dated _____, between _____ (the "Grantor" or "Beneficiary") of _____, (State) _____ and _____ of _____, _____ (the "Trustee").

In consideration of the mutual covenants and promises set forth in this Agreement, the Grantor and the Trustee agree as follows:

I. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a Trust to receive and manage assets for the benefit of the Grantor during the Grantor's lifetime, and to further manage and distribute the assets of the Trust upon the death of the Grantor.

II. FUNDING OF TRUST. This Trust shall be funded with assets transferred to this Trust by the Grantor at the time of creating this Trust, or at any later time. During the lifetime of the Grantor, any interest in community property transferred into or out of this Trust shall retain its original character and such property shall not be commingled. This Trust may also receive property from any person or entity who is acting under the authority granted to that person or entity by the Grantor. It is also expected that this Trust may receive assets pursuant to the terms of the Grantor's Last Will and Testament.

III. MANAGEMENT OF TRUST ASSETS. The Trustee shall manage and distribute the Trust assets for the benefit of the Grantor and the Grantor's successor(s) in interest in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

IV. PAYMENTS DURING THE GRANTOR'S LIFETIME. During the Grantor's lifetime, the Trustee shall pay all of the net income of this Trust, and also such sums from principal as the Grantor may request at any time in writing, to or for the benefit of the Grantor, or as the Grantor may designate. Such payments shall be made at least _____. The Grantor may change the amount of the payments at any time by providing written notice to the Trustee. Any excess income shall be added to principal at the discretion of the Trustee.

A. Payments During a "Disability" of the Grantor. During any period that the Grantor has a "disability", the Trustee may pay to or for the benefit of the Grantor such amounts of income and principal as the Trustee believes in the Trustee's sole discretion to be required for (i) the Grantor's support, comfort and welfare, (ii) the Grantor's accustomed manner of living, or (iii) any purpose that the Trustee believes to be in the best interest of the Grantor.

B. Disability Defined. For the purposes of this Trust, "disability" shall mean a legal disability or the inability to provide prompt and intelligent consideration to financial matters by reason of illness or mental or physical disability. The determination of whether the Grantor has a disability shall be made by the Grantor's most recent attending physician. The Trustee shall be entitled to rely on written notice of that determination.

V. DEATH OF THE GRANTOR. Upon the death of the Grantor, and after the payment of the Grantor's just debts, funeral expenses, and expenses of last illness, the following distributions shall be made:

A. Specific Distributions. The following specific distributions shall be made from the assets of the Trust. However, such distributions (other than distributions, if any, to the Grantor's spouse) shall be made only if the Grantor's spouse, _____, does not survive the Grantor.

_____ shall be distributed to _____ . If this beneficiary does not survive the Grantor, this bequest shall be distributed with the residuary assets of this Trust.

B. Tangible Personal Property. Upon the death of the Grantor and subject to the preceding provisions of this Trust, all clothing, jewelry, automobiles, household furniture and furnishings, recreational equipment, all personal effects used by the Grantor about the Grantor's person or home, and other items of tangible personal property shall be distributed to _____ of _____, _____. If this person does not survive the Grantor, the tangible personal property shall be distributed to the same persons and in the same manner as provided for the distribution of the residuary assets of this Trust.

C. Residuary Assets. The residuary assets of this Trust shall be distributed to the Grantor's heirs-at-law, their identities and respective shares to be determined under the laws of the State of _____, then in effect, relating to the succession of separate property that is not attributable to a predeceased spouse, as if the Grantor had died intestate at the time fixed for distribution under this provision.

VI. TRUSTEE POWERS. The Trustee, in addition to other powers and authority granted by law or necessary or appropriate for proper administration of the Trust, shall have the following rights, powers, and authority without order of court and without notice to anyone:

A. Receive Assets. To receive, hold, maintain, administer, collect, invest and re-invest the trust assets, and collect and apply the income, profits, and principal of the Trust in accordance with the terms of this instrument.

B. Receive Additional Assets. To receive additional assets from other sources, including assets received under the Will of the Grantor or any other person.

C. Standard of Care. To acquire, invest, reinvest, exchange, retain, sell, and manage estate and trust assets, exercising the judgment and care, under the circumstances then prevailing, that persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not in regard to speculation but in regard to the permanent disposition of their funds, considering the probable income as well as the probable safety of their capital. Within the limitations of that standard, the Trustee is authorized to acquire and retain every kind of property, real, personal or mixed, and every kind of investment, specifically including, but not by way of limitation, bonds, debentures and other corporate obligations, and stocks, preferred or common, that persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence acquire or retain for their own account, even though not otherwise a legal investment for trust funds under the laws and statutes of the United States or the state under which this instrument is administered.

D. Retain Assets. To retain any asset, including uninvested cash or original investments, regardless of whether it is of the kind authorized by this instrument for investment and whether it leaves a disproportionately large part of the estate or trust invested in one type of property, for as long as the Trustee deems advisable.

E. Dispose of or Encumber Assets. To sell, option, mortgage, pledge, lease or convey real or personal property, publicly or privately, upon such terms and conditions as may appear to be proper, and to execute all instruments necessary to effect such authority.

F. Settle Claims. To compromise, settle, or abandon claims in favor of or against the Trust.

G. Manage Property. To manage real estate and personal property, borrow money, exercise options, buy insurance, and register securities as may appear to be proper.

H. Allocate Between Principal and Income. To make allocations of charges and credits as between principal and income as in the sole discretion of the Trustee may appear to be proper.

I. Employ Professional Assistance. To employ and compensate counsel and other persons deemed necessary for proper administration and to delegate authority when such delegation is advantageous to the trust.

J. Distribute Property. To make division or distribution in money or kind, or partly in either including disproportionate in-kind distributions, at values to be determined by the Trustee, and the Trustee's judgment shall be binding upon all interested parties.

K. Enter Contracts. To bind the Trust by contracts or agreements without assuming individual liability for such contracts.

L. Exercise Stock Ownership Rights. To vote, execute proxies to vote, join in or oppose any plans for reorganization, and exercise any other rights incident to the ownership of any stocks, bonds or other properties of the Trust.

M. Duration of Powers. To continue to exercise the powers provided in this Agreement after the termination of the Trust until all the assets of the Trust have been distributed.

N. Hold Trust Assets as a Single Fund. To hold the assets of the Trust, shares, or portions of the Trust created by this instrument as a single fund for joint investment and management, without the need for physical segregation, dividing the income proportionately among them. Segregation of the various trust shares need only be made on the books of the Trustee for accounting purposes.

O. Compensation. To receive reasonable compensation for the Trustee's services under this Agreement and be exonerated from and to pay all reasonable expenses and charges of the Trust.

P. Loans to Beneficiaries. To make loans to any trust beneficiary for the purpose of providing the beneficiary with the funds necessary to take advantage of exceptional business opportunities or to provide for the needs of the beneficiaries and their families.

Q. Methods of Distribution. To make payments to or for the benefit of any beneficiary (specifically including any beneficiary under any legal disability) in any of the following ways: (a) directly to the beneficiary, (b) directly for the maintenance, welfare and education of the beneficiary, (c) to the legal or natural guardian of the beneficiary, or, (d) to anyone who at the time shall have custody and care of the person of the beneficiary. The Trustee shall not be obliged to see to the application of the funds so paid, but the receipt of the person to whom the funds were paid shall be full acquittance of the Trustee.

VII. ADDITIONAL TRUSTEE PROVISIONS. These additional provisions shall apply regarding the Trustee.

A. Grantor as Trustee. If at any time the Grantor is the Trustee, the Grantor may appoint a successor Trustee, to become effective immediately or upon any stated contingency, by making such designation in writing. Such designee shall become the successor Trustee upon acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

B. Successor Trustee. If at any time a Trustee cannot serve because of the Trustee's disability (as previously defined), death, or other reason,

_____, of _____,
_____, is designated as the successor Trustee, without
bond. If such designee(s) is/are unable to serve for any reason,
_____, of _____,
_____, is designated as the alternate successor Trustee,
without bond. Such designee(s) shall become the successor Trustee(s) upon
acceptance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

C. Resignation of Trustee. Any Trustee may resign by giving written notice to the beneficiaries to whom income could then be distributed. Such resignation shall take effect on such date specified in the notice, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of delivery of such written resignation unless an earlier effective date shall be agreed to by the income beneficiaries.

D. Adult Beneficiary Rights. If the Trustee resigns or for any reason ceases to serve as Trustee, and if the successor Trustee(s) designated by the Grantor, if any, fail or cease to serve as Trustee, then the adult beneficiaries to whom income could then be distributed, together with the adult beneficiaries to whom principal would be distributed if the Trust were then to terminate, may by majority action in writing appoint a successor Trustee. If agreement of a majority of the beneficiaries cannot be obtained within sixty (60) days, a successor Trustee shall be appointed by the court having general jurisdiction of the Trust. Any successor Trustee appointed shall have all the rights conferred upon the original Trustee and shall be bound by the provisions of this Trust.

E. Accounting. The Trustee shall provide an accounting to the Beneficiary (or beneficiaries) on at least a(n) _____ basis. If a beneficiary has a "disability", the Trustee shall provide the accounting to a guardian or conservator, if any.

F. Bond. No bond shall be required of any Trustee.

VIII. RIGHT TO DIRECT INVESTMENTS. At any time that the Trust has investments, and provided that the Grantor does not have a "disability", the Grantor may direct any Trustee to purchase, sell, or retain any trust investment.

IX. REVOCATION OR AMENDMENT. During the Grantor's lifetime, the Grantor may revoke at any time, and/or the Grantor may amend, this Agreement by delivering to the Trustee an appropriate written revocation or amendment, signed by the Grantor. If the Trustee consents, the powers of revocation, but not the power of amendment, may be exercised by a duly appointed and acting attorney-in-fact for the Grantor for the purpose of withdrawing assets from the Trust.

X. GOVERNING LAW. This Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

XI. PERPETUITIES SAVINGS CLAUSE. Despite any other provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the trust created by this Agreement shall terminate no later than 21 years after the death of the last surviving beneficiary of this Agreement who is living at the time of the death of the Grantor.

XII. SEVERABILITY. If any portion of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and enforceable. If a court finds that any provision of this Agreement is invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting such provision it would become valid and enforceable, then such provision shall be deemed to be written, construed, and enforced as so limited.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

A. Paragraph Titles and Gender. The titles given to the paragraphs of this Trust are inserted for reference purposes only and are not to be considered as forming a part of this Trust in interpreting its provisions. All words used in this Trust in any gender shall extend to and include all genders, and any singular words shall include the plural expression, and vice versa, specifically including "child" and "children", when the context or facts so require, and any pronouns shall be taken to refer to the person or persons intended regardless of gender or number.

B. Thirty Day Survival Requirement. For the purposes of determining the appropriate distributions under this Trust, no person or organization shall be deemed to have survived the Grantor, unless such person or entity is also surviving (or in existence) on the thirtieth day after the date of the Grantor's death.

C. Common Disaster. If the Grantor and the Grantor's spouse die under circumstances such that there is no clear or convincing evidence as to the order of their deaths, or if it is difficult or impractical to determine which person survived the death of the other person, it shall, for the purpose of distribution of the Grantor's life insurance, property passing under any will or other contracts, if any, and property passing under this Trust, be conclusively presumed that the Grantor predeceased the death of the Grantor's spouse, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Trust, the Grantor's spouse (or the Grantor's spouse's estate as the case may be) shall receive the distribution to which the Grantor's spouse would otherwise be entitled to receive without regard to a survivorship requirement, if any.

D. Liability of Fiduciary. No fiduciary who is a natural person shall, in the absence of fraudulent conduct or bad faith, be liable individually to any beneficiary of the Grantor's trust estate, and the Grantor's trust estate shall indemnify such natural person from any and all claims or expenses in connection with or arising out of that fiduciary's good faith actions or nonactions of the fiduciary, except for such actions or nonactions which constitute fraudulent conduct or bad faith. No successor trustee shall be obliged to inquire into or be in any way accountable for the previous administration of the trust property.

E. Spouse. The Grantor is married to _____
and all references in this Trust to "the Grantor's spouse" are references to _____.

F. Children. The names of the Grantor's children are:

All references in this Trust to "the Grantor's child" or "the Grantor's children" include the above child or children, and any other children born to or adopted by the Grantor after the signing of this Trust.

Signature: _____, Grantor

Signature: _____, Trustee

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

On _____ before me, _____,
personally appeared _____,

personally known to me

- OR -

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence

to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same, and that by his/her signature on the instrument the person executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature of Notary

STATE OF _____
COUNTY OF _____

On this ____ day of _____, _____, before me
_____, personally appeared
_____,

personally known to me

- OR -

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence

to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same (in his/her authorized capacity), and that by his/her signature on the instrument the person (or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted), executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature of Notary

Final Checklist for Living Trust

Grantor: _____
Date _____

Make It Legal

_____ This Living Trust should be signed by both _____ and the Trustee. It is recommended (and may be required if real property is included among the trust assets) that these signatures be notarized; however unlike a will, no witnesses are necessary.

_____ The date should be filled in on the first page of the document, and in the signature areas at the end.

_____ You should initial on the bottom margin of each page of the document. This prevents the subsequent substitution of pages. To print out an initials line at the bottom of each page of your document, go to the "View" menu at the top of the screen and choose "Preferences." Select the Print tab and choose the appropriate checkbox.

Copies

- * The original of the Trust should be kept in a secure location such as a safe deposit box at a bank. A photocopy should be given to the named Trustee(s) if he or she is not the Grantor. A third copy may be kept in _____'s home files.
- * The Grantor may wish to provide a copy to his or her lawyer, and/or to the person named as successor Trustee. However, before distributing such copies, the Grantor should consider that it may become awkward to retrieve them later, should the Grantor decide to change the designation of successor Trustee.

Other Information

- * After signing the Living Trust document and creating the Trust, the next step which must be taken is to legally transfer specific assets into the Trust. The Trust provisions will only apply to assets that have been placed into the Trust. Assets can be transferred at the time of the creation of the Trust and/or at later dates, but it is recommended that assets be transferred as soon as possible after the Trust is signed. For a review of methods used to transfer specific types of assets into the Trust, re-read and/or print the Transferring Assets into the Trust topic or see the "Living Trust - Funding Worksheet" document.

- * The use of a Living Trust does not eliminate the need for a will. You may have assets that you do not wish to transfer into the Living Trust. For example, it may be preferable not to transfer some personal property such as vehicles, household and personal effects, and a personal checking account. A Pour-Over Will is useful to transfer such assets to the Trustee of the Living Trust for final distribution. **IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT A LIVING TRUST NOT BE SIGNED UNLESS A POUR-OVER WILL IS ALSO PROPERLY SIGNED BY THE GRANTOR.**
- * The Trust includes provisions which reserve to you the right to revoke or amend the Trust. In order to do this, you must sign and deliver to the Trustee an appropriate written revocation or amendment. If the Trust is being changed, it may be easier to simply restate the Trust by completing a new document.

Reasons to Update

- * A change in marital status.
- * The birth or adoption of a child.
- * A move to another state.
- * A significant change in financial status.
- * A significant change in tax laws.
- * The death of a beneficiary.
- * A desire to add or change beneficiaries.
- * The death or incapacity of a named trustee.