

Five Things a Revocable Trust Can Do That a Will Can't

Wisdom for families who value privacy, continuity, and simplicity.

Many clients believe that having a will means their planning is complete. A will is foundational—but it has limitations.

*A **revocable living trust** isn't about sophistication or cost. It's about solving problems that a will simply cannot—especially for families who want smoother transitions, fewer disruptions, and less exposure.*

*Here you will find **five reasons advisors often recommend a revocable trust** as the cornerstone of a well-designed estate plan.*



FIVE REASONS ADVISORS OFTEN RECOMMEND A REVOCABLE TRUST

1. TYPICALLY AVOIDS PROBATE

A will must go through probate. A revocable trust does not.

Probate is a court-supervised process that often:

- Takes **6–18 months**
- Creates legal and administrative costs
- Makes family finances part of the public record
- Delays access to assets during a critical time

Assets properly titled in a revocable trust pass **directly to beneficiaries**, without court involvement.

Client benefits:

- Faster asset transfer
- Lower administrative burden
- Reduced stress for surviving family members

*A will initiates probate.
A trust bypasses it.*

2. PRESERVE FAMILY PRIVACY

Wills are public documents.

Once probated, they can reveal:

- Asset composition
- Beneficiary designations
- Disinheritance decisions
- Executor identity
- Approximate estate value

A revocable trust remains private.

- No public filings
- No searchable court records
- No unnecessary disclosure

For many clients, privacy is not a luxury—it's a value.

3. PROVIDE SEAMLESS MANAGEMENT DURING INCAPACITY

A will only functions at death.

A revocable trust functions during life.

If a client becomes incapacitated:

- A successor trustee can act immediately
- Bills continue to be paid

– continued on other side

- Investments remain managed
- Property is maintained
- Court intervention is typically avoided

Without a trust or properly executed powers of attorney, families may face conservatorship proceedings—often costly, slow, and emotionally taxing.

*Trusts create continuity.
Wills do not.*

4. CONTROL THE TIMING AND STRUCTURE OF INHERITANCE

Wills generally distribute assets outright.

A revocable trust allows clients to:

- Stagger distributions over time
- Add guardrails for young or vulnerable beneficiaries
- Protect assets from poor financial decisions
- Preserve family wealth through remarriage or divorce risks

- Align inheritance with long-term planning goals

This approach reflects **stewardship, not restriction.**

5. REDUCE CONFLICT AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRICTION

Probate-driven administration often includes:

- Formal court notices
- Statutory deadlines
- Procedural complexity
- Increased likelihood of disputes

Trust administration is typically:

- Quieter
- Faster
- More flexible
- Less adversarial

Clear instructions and private oversight often mean fewer misunderstandings and smoother family dynamics.

WHAT A REVOCABLE TRUST DOES NOT DO

A revocable trust:

- Does **not** eliminate estate taxes on its own
- Does **not** replace powers of attorney or healthcare directives

However, when paired with a will and proper beneficiary planning, it often serves as the **central organizing document** of a coordinated estate strategy.

TAKEAWAY

A will answers:

- Who receives my assets when I die?

A revocable trust helps clients answer:

- How will my affairs be managed if I'm incapacitated?
- How quickly and privately can my family move forward?
- How do I reduce stress for the people I care about most?

For many people, a trust isn't about complexity—it's about *clarity, continuity, and care*. Those are the very outcomes Parr McKnight is committed to delivering. We collaborate closely with experienced estate planning attorneys and can help guide you in the right direction.

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CLARITY. CONFIDENCE. STRUCTURE.

Everyone's circumstances are different. If you'd like to discuss how a revocable trust might benefit you, please give us a call.

And if someone important to you came to mind while reading this, we welcome you to share this resource with them.

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