

## **CASE STUDY**

## Agent for Trustee

**CLIENT PROFILE:** Mr. and Mrs. Craig own a successful general contracting business and are parents to three young children. Their attorney has recently recommended that they put a portion of their assets in a trust for their children's education and financial security.

**CHALLENGE:** Mr. and Mrs. Craig would like to name themselves trustees of the trust for their children in order to maintain legal control of the assets. However, they are concerned about the potential challenges and responsibilities associated with managing the trust's assets. Although they have many years of experience running their business, they are worried that they do not have enough experience managing an investment portfolio or making legal decisions as a fiduciary.

**SOLUTION:** To address these concerns, the Craigs decided to appoint Hightower Trust Company as Agent for Trustee. A trust company can be appointed as agent for a trustee under agency statutes to manage and oversee the assets of a trust, while allowing the trustee to retain fiduciary control. This provides several benefits:



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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:** Trust companies possess specialized knowledge and experience in trust administration. They have dedicated teams of professionals who are well-versed in trust law, investment strategies, and estate planning. By appointing Hightower Trust Company as agent, the Craigs can benefit from their expertise and guidance in managing the trust's assets effectively.

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**CONTINUITY:** Trust companies are established institutions that are designed to operate for a long time. They have continuity of service, ensuring that the trust's affairs are managed consistently even if the trustee or other individuals involved with the trust change. This continuity provides stability and minimizes disruptions in the management of the trust's assets.



**LIMITED LIABILITY:** One of the significant advantages of appointing a trust company as agent is the limited liability it offers to the trustee. Trust companies are typically regulated entities that are required to maintain adequate capital and adhere to strict standards of conduct. This means that the trustee's personal assets are generally protected from potential liabilities arising from the trust's activities.

**RESULTS:** Hightower Trust Company provided several valuable services to the Craig family. They assisted Mr. and Mrs. Craig in understanding their fiduciary duties and responsibilities as trustees. They also offered guidance on investment strategies, risk management, and tax planning. Hightower helped the Craigs make informed decisions about the trust's assets and help ensure they were being managed in the best interests of their family. In addition, Hightower's established infrastructure and experienced staff affirmed that the trust's affairs were managed consistently, and the trust company's regulated status provided the Craigs with protection against potential liabilities arising from the trust's activities.

## CONCLUSION

The appointment of Hightower Trust Company as Agent for Trustee was a valuable decision for the Craig family. It allowed them to benefit from professional experience, continuity of service, and limited liability, ultimately leading to effective management of the trust's assets in the best interests of the beneficiaries.

Appointing a trust company as Agent for Trustee under agency statutes can be a wise decision. By leveraging the specialized knowledge of a trust company, trustees can effectively manage and oversee the assets of a trust, ensuring that the beneficiaries' best interests are served.



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