

5 Questions asked of a Professional Fiduciary by Iris Hecker

1. **What is A Fiduciary?** - A Person of Trust. In my case I handle the financial decisions and obligations of the Person when they are no longer capable whether temporary (Being in an accident and then recovers) or long term, such as an Elderly Person
2. **What is the difference between a Fiduciary, an Estate Planning Attorney or Financial Advisor?** - This is a great question. The simplest answer is an Estate Planning Attorney drafts the legal documents for the Estate Plan, The Professional Fiduciary executes the Estate Plan, and the Financial Advisor invests the Assets of the Person, but works in conjunction with the Professional Fiduciary. Each Field plays an important role in making the Estate Plan work well.
3. **When do I need a Fiduciary Advisor?** - First off we need to clarify the question. There are different types of Fiduciaries. There are Financial Advisors that are Fiduciaries that handle the Investments of the Person. This type of Investment Advisor is held to a higher standard of investing. They must invest in the Person's best interest, not in their own interest (Higher commission fees, etc). This profession is not the same as a Professional Fiduciary (See question 1). I think it is always a good idea if your Financial Advisor is also a Fiduciary. In regards to the Professional Fiduciary, you should have your Estate Plan set up so that when you are not able to make decisions the Power of Attorney can be activated when necessary.
4. **Are Professional Fiduciaries always legally bound to act in my best interest?** ABSOLUTELY! We are licensed and regulated by the Professional Fiduciary Bureau of California. We can lose our license if we do something that is deemed unethical or immoral.
5. **How often would a Fiduciary manage my finances?** - This depends upon the capacity of the individual. Now adays with automatic payments and direct deposits, alot of time can be saved. If a client is **Special Needs**, then there might be more time involved due to extra needs in communications, budgeting, etc. In working with a Professional Fiduciary, we evaluate what is needed and the amount of time required to complete the tasks at hand. Normally this is discussed in the initial meetings with the person, family and/or beneficiaries.

I hope you all find this information helpful. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly with any questions. I am here to help.

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