

Trust Funding Audit Checklist

Use this checklist with your current trust documents and a current list of your assets. For each category, confirm whose name is actually on the title, deed, or account. If an asset is supposed to be in your trust but is still in your individual name, it is not funded.

Asset / account	In trust	Should be	Intentional	Not sure
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Real estate

Primary residence	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vacation home or secondary residence	☐	☐	☐	☐
Rental property	☐	☐	☐	☐
Out-of-state property	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vacant land	☐	☐	☐	☐
Any real estate held jointly with a spouse or family member	☐	☐	☐	☐

How to check: Pull the current deed. The named owner is what matters, not what you remember signing years ago.

Financial accounts

Primary checking account	☐	☐	☐	☐
Primary savings account	☐	☐	☐	☐
Money market account	☐	☐	☐	☐
Certificates of deposit (CDs)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Brokerage accounts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Mutual fund accounts	☐	☐	☐	☐

How to check: Log in or pull a recent statement. The account holder's name is listed at the top.

Retirement and insurance - check beneficiary, not ownership

Each 401(k) you have, including from prior employers	☐	☐	☐	☐
Each IRA (traditional, Roth, SEP, SIMPLE)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Each 403(b) or 457 plan	☐	☐	☐	☐
Each life insurance policy	☐	☐	☐	☐
Each annuity	☐	☐	☐	☐

How to check: For these, the question is whether the trust is named as beneficiary (not whether the trust owns the account). Pull the current beneficiary form from each provider.

Business interests

LLC membership interests	☐	☐	☐	☐
S-corporation stock	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partnership interests	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sole proprietorship assets	☐	☐	☐	☐
Royalty or licensing rights	☐	☐	☐	☐

How to check: Review the operating agreement, stock certificates, or partnership documents. The trust needs to be formally named as the owner of the interest.

Personal property

Vehicles (depending on your state, these may or may not need to be in the trust)	☐	☐	☐	☐
Significant collectibles, art, or jewelry	☐	☐	☐	☐
Intellectual property	☐	☐	☐	☐

Things to watch for

- ☐ Assets you acquired AFTER your trust was created and never retitled
- ☐ Property you own in another state
- ☐ Beneficiary designations that still name a prior spouse or deceased family member
- ☐ Jointly held accounts that you were told would be covered by the trust (they are not)

What to do with your results

If every applicable asset is in your trust: your trust is funded correctly. Review this checklist once a year, especially after acquiring new assets.

If one or two assets are not in your trust: these may be fixable with your bank, broker, or county clerk directly. For real estate, a title company or attorney typically needs to re-record the deed.

If several assets are not in your trust, or you are not sure what you are looking at: schedule a trust funding review with our firm. We go through your assets with you, identify what needs to be retitled, and handle the paperwork alongside you.

Need help finishing the audit?

Bring this completed checklist to a trust funding review with NJ Elder Law Center.

[Schedule a trust funding review →](#)