

Information about trustees

Who can have a trustee?

If you are unable to look after your finances or your interests because of illness, a mental disorder, poor health or a similar reason, you can apply for a trustee.

A trustee will only be put in place if one is needed. You cannot get a trustee if you can get help in some other way, for example from a friend or a relative who has a power of attorney.

What is a trustee?

A trustee is a man or a woman who helps you with your finances, keeps your papers and letters in order and makes sure you get the help you need. If you have a trustee, you still make decisions yourself, together with your trustee.

What does a trustee do?

They can help you with your finances – for example, pay bills, help you manage your savings or check what money you owe.

They can also help you with your tax return, applications for benefits, for example for housing, and contacting the bank or your home-help service.

A trustee must also see you often enough for them to be sure that you are happy where you live and that your life is running smoothly.

You will see your trustee about once a month, and will also agree between you how you will stay in contact by phone, text or email.

Who can be a trustee?

Anyone who is honest, accurate and well-organised and who likes helping other people can apply to be a trustee.

A trustee can be of any age and occupation, and can also be someone who is retired.

The Chief Guardian Committee (Överförmyndarnämnden) will check that the trustees own finances are in order and that they have not been convicted of any crime. All trustees are checked out by the police, the Enforcement Authority and social services.

How can I get a trustee?

You can apply for a trustee yourself. You can get help with your application from relatives, social services or care services. Send your application to Växjö tingsrätt (Växjö District Court), who will then decide if you are entitled to a trustee.

What happens once I have made my application?

The Chief Guardian Committee will suggest a trustee if you are not able to suggest one yourself. You agree a time for a meeting where you can say what you need help with. If you are both happy with the arrangement, you sign a document to authorise the trustee.

Växjö District Court will then decide if you can have a trustee.

Once the process is complete, you and the trustee will get a letter from the Court. It is at that point that the trustee is appointed. The trustee will then come and see you so that you can plan how you are going to work together.

Is there a charge for a trustee?

Yes – if you have an appropriate level of income, or if you have money in the bank, you pay for the trustee yourself. If not, the local authority will pay the trustee a fee.

What does the Chief Guardian Committee do?

Every municipality has a Chief Guardian Committee. The Chief Guardian Committee does not manage the trustee and cannot tell them what to do. However, the Committee must check that the trustee is doing their job. You should send any complaints about your trustee to the Committee.

Sometimes the trustee may have to ask the Committee for permission, for example if a large sum of money needs to be withdrawn from your bank account.

Once a year, the trustee will produce a report saying how they have helped you manage your money. The Committee will review the report to ensure that you can be certain that everything is being done correctly.

How long can I have a trustee?

You can have a trustee as long as you need help. If you no longer need help, you should talk to your trustee or to the Chief Guardian Committee. You will then need to write to the Chief Guardian Committee saying that you no longer need a trustee. Sometimes it is possible to change your trustee. To do this, the Chief Guardian Committee will need a letter from you saying why you want to change your trustee.