

WAYS YOUR PARTNER CAN INHERIT FROM YOU

METHOD	HOW IT WORKS	PROS	CONS
Add your partner as a joint owner on an account or piece of property	Complete the necessary forms (title, deed, etc.) to add your partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to do • Minimal or no cost • No court involvement at your death • Your partner will have full access immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your partner will have full access immediately • Your partner chooses who gets the account or property at their death • Account or property is now vulnerable to your partner's creditors and liabilities • If partnership ends prematurely, possible litigation to get property retitled in your name
Name your partner as a beneficiary on a retirement account or life insurance policy	Request a new beneficiary designation form from the plan administrator or life insurance company and list your partner as the primary beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to do • No cost • No court involvement at your death • You maintain control of the account and policy during your lifetime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your partner chooses who gets the account or remaining funds at their death • Account or funds are now vulnerable to your partner's creditors and liabilities • You have no control over how the money is spent at your death
Name your partner as the pay-on-death (POD) or transfer-on-death (TOD) beneficiary of an account	Fill out the financial institution's beneficiary form by listing your partner as the primary beneficiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to do • No cost • No court involvement at your death • You maintain control of the account during your lifetime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your partner chooses who gets the account or remaining funds at their death • Account or funds are now vulnerable to your partner's creditors and liabilities • You have no control over how the money is spent at your death
Name your partner as a beneficiary in your last will and testament	Work with an experienced estate planning attorney and specify what your partner is to receive, when your partner will receive it, and how your partner will receive it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You determine what your partner will receive, how much your partner will receive, and how your partner will receive the share • If left under a testamentary trust, your partner's gift can be protected from your partner's creditors • If disagreements are possible, probate court oversight might help minimize tensions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If left outright, accounts and property are vulnerable to your partner's creditors or liabilities • If left outright, you have no control over how the account or property will be used or distributed at your partner's death • Your partner will have to go through probate to get the money or property; court oversight could be lengthy if money or property is left in a testamentary trust for a long period of time • Document is only effective at your death (not at your incapacity)
Name your partner as a beneficiary of your revocable living trust (RLT)	Work with an experienced estate planning attorney and specify what your partner is to receive, when your partner will receive it (during your lifetime or at death), and how your partner will receive it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You determine what your partner will receive, how much your partner will receive, and how your partner will receive the share • You can provide financial support for your partner if you are incapacitated • Money and property given to your partner can be protected from your partner's creditors • No probate court involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If trust holds on to any income generated, this amount will likely be taxed at a higher rate than an individual • Potential for ongoing fees (tax preparation, investment, and management)

Illustration Purposes Only. This document is not legal, tax, or financial advice. Consult with a qualified professional before making any legal, tax, investment, or financial decisions.