Living Trust vs Will — Cost Comparison Worksheet

Fillable Planning Worksheet — ClearLegalTips.com (2026)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Compare the lifetime cost of a will-based plan vs a revocable living trust. A will is cheaper to create but the estate usually goes through probate; a trust costs more up front but can avoid probate. Fill in your numbers.

A. Your Situation

[ ] Own real estate
[ ] Own property in more than one state
[ ] Want to avoid probate / keep things private
[ ] Simple estate, one state

B. Will-Based Plan

Item	Typical Range	Your Estimate
Will (DIY template / attorney)	$0 – $1,000	$
Later probate cost for your estate	3% – 7% of estate	$
Total lifetime cost	add the two	$

C. Living Trust Plan

Item	Typical Range	Your Estimate
Revocable trust (DIY / attorney)	$200 – $3,000	$
Funding costs (deeds, re-titling)	$0 – $1,000	$
Pour-over will	$0 – $400	$
Probate avoided	usually $0	$
Total lifetime cost	add the above	$

D. Result

Lower-cost option for you: ____

Estimated lifetime difference: ____

Notes

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