

Key Facts

Trustee Services

Switzerland is one of the world's leading and most competitive financial centres, noted for its stability and security. The Hague Convention on the Law Applicable to Trusts (1985) was ratified on 1 July 2007, and Swiss courts have expressly recognised the validity of foreign trusts administered in Switzerland. This means that Swiss trustees may administer trusts governed by the law of other jurisdictions, such as the Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Jersey, New Zealand or Singapore.

Trusts are administered in Switzerland for international families with wide-ranging needs, such as succession planning, generational transfer of assets, protection of vulnerable family members, relocation, philanthropy, corporate needs and asset protection.

Trust Features

- There is no registration requirement for trusts.
- Trust features vary in accordance with the governing law chosen for the trust.

International Tax Reporting

- Switzerland has committed to complying with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development guidelines and is part of its 'white list'.

Taxation

- A Swiss resident trustee is not liable for Swiss income tax or capital gains tax on the assets held under management in a trust.
- Settlers and beneficiaries are exempt from Swiss taxation as long as they are not Swiss tax residents.
- The same applies for residents if they set up an irrevocable trust prior to their taking up residence in Switzerland.
- Tax rulings can be obtained for Swiss residents wishing to create a trust.

Key Benefits

- Switzerland is increasingly considered by wealthy families globally as the choice location for administration of trusts, providing strict confidentiality, estate and succession planning, and asset protection.
- Trustees in Switzerland are regulated by the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA).
- Switzerland has a long-established reputation for discreet professional support when managing the affairs of wealthy private individuals.
- There is no public register of beneficial owners.
- The choice of governing law has no implications on the fiscal residency of the trust, which is Switzerland for a Swiss trustee.

Find Out More

If you would like to discuss any aspects of the above in more detail, please contact your usual Trident representative or email Trident Switzerland directly at switzerland@tridenttrust.com.

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