Checklist for Finding a Good CPA for an Irrevocable Non-Grantor Dynasty Trust

General Information

Questions to Ask the CPA

General Qualifications

1. Have you worked with irrevocable, non-grantor dynasty trusts before?
2. Are you familiar with vortex private trust structures?
3. Do you specialize in trusts, estates, and asset protection?
4. How many years of experience do you have handling similar trusts?
5. What certifications or advanced training do you have in trust taxation or estate planning?

Tax Strategy and Compliance

1. How do you handle IRS filings for irrevocable trusts (e.g., Form 1041)?
2. Can you explain the implications of taxable and non-taxable events within the trust?
3. Are you knowledgeable about state-specific tax laws that affect our trust structure?
4. Do you provide advice on compliance, asset protection, and trustee obligations?
5. Are you up to date with the latest tax laws and regulations?(gotta ask)

Fee Structure and Services

1. What is your fee structure, and are there any additional costs?
2. Do you offer a range of services (e.g., bookkeeping, compliance audits, tax strategy)?
3. Are your services customizable to the specific needs of my trust?

Reputation and Trustworthiness

1. Can you provide references from similar clients or entities?
2. What is your process for handling client concerns or resolving issues?
3. Are you a member of professional organizations (e.g., AICPA, NAEPC)?
4. Can you share examples or case studies of your work with similar trusts?

Communication and Compatibility

1. Are you willing to explain complex issues in a way I can understand?
2. How do you typically communicate with clients (e.g., email, phone, in-person)?
3. How responsive are you to emails or calls?
4. Do you offer a free or low-cost consultation?

General Qualifications and Experience

Reputation and Trustworthiness	.
Tax Strategy and Compliance	
Fee Structure and Services	
Communication and Compatibility	.
Red Flags to Avoid	**Red Flags to Avoid When Choosing a CPA** 1. **Lack of Relevant Experience** ○ No prior work with irrevocable, non-grantor, or dynasty trusts. 2. **Unclear Fee Structure** ○ Vague pricing or unexpected hidden fees. 3. **Refusal to Provide References** ○ Inability or unwillingness to share client references or case studies. 4. **Dismissive Attitude** ○ Does not respect your knowledge or avoids explaining complex issues clearly. 5. **Overly Aggressive Sales Tactics** ○ Pushes unrelated products or services, like insurance or investments. 6. **Poor Communication** ○ Unresponsive to emails, calls, or questions during the vetting process. 7. **No Professional Memberships** ○ Not part of reputable organizations like AICPA or NAEPC. 8. **Negative Reviews or Complaints** ○ History of bad reviews, unresolved client complaints, or disciplinary actions.
Additional Notes	

Use this checklist to evaluate and compare CPAs, ensuring you find one that meets the needs of your irrevocable non-grantor dynasty trust.

Conclusion