

a particular case, it is strongly recommended that the interested parties or their representatives contact the Office of Government Ethics as early as possible.

(4) Prior to trust certification, prospective trustees or their representatives should schedule with the staff of the Office of Government Ethics an appointment for an orientation to the specialized requirements and procedures which have been established by the Act and the regulations with respect to qualified trust administration.

**§ 2634.402 Special notice for advice-and-consent nominees.**

(a) *In general.* In any case in which the establishment of a qualified diversified trust is contemplated with respect to a reporting individual whose nomination is being considered by a Senate committee, that individual shall inform the committee of the intention to establish a qualified diversified trust at the time of filing a financial disclosure report with the committee.

(b) *Applicability.* The rule of this section is not applicable to members of the uniformed services or Foreign Service officers. The special notice requirement of this section shall not preclude an individual from seeking the certification of a qualified blind trust or qualified diversified trust after the Senate has given its advice and consent to a nomination.

**§ 2634.403 Qualified blind trusts.**

(a) *Definition.* A *qualified blind trust* is a trust in which the filer, his spouse, or his minor or dependent child has a beneficial interest, which is certified pursuant to § 2634.405 of this subpart by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, and which includes in the trust instrument in the provisions required by paragraph (b) of this section, and has an independent trustee as defined in § 2634.406 of this subpart. See section 102(f)(3) of the Act.

(b) *Required provisions.* The instrument which establishes a blind trust must adhere substantively to model drafts circulated by the Office of Government Ethics, and must provide that:

(1) The primary purpose of the blind trust is to confer on the independent

trustee and any other designated fiduciary the sole responsibility to administer the trust and to manage trust assets without the participation by, or the knowledge of, any interested party. This includes the duty to decide when and to what extent the original assets of the trust are to be sold or disposed of and in what investments the proceeds of sale are to be reinvested;

(2) The trustee and any other designated fiduciary in the exercise of their authority and discretion to manage and control the assets of the trust shall not consult or notify any interested party;

(3) None of the assets initially placed in the trust's portfolio shall include assets the holding of which by any interested party would be prohibited by the Act, by the implementing regulations, or by any other applicable Federal law, Executive order, or regulation;

(4) Any portfolio asset transferred to the trust by an interested party is free of any restriction with respect to its transfer or sale, except as fully described in schedules attached to the trust instrument, and as approved by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics;

(5) During the term of the trust, the interested parties shall not pledge, mortgage, or otherwise encumber their interests in the property held by the trust;

(6) The trustee shall promptly notify the filer and the Director of the Office of Government Ethics when any particular asset transferred to the trust by an interested party has been completely disposed of or when the value of that asset is reduced to less than \$1,000;

(7) The trustee or his designee shall prepare the trust's income tax return. Under no circumstances shall the trustee or any other designated fiduciary disclose publicly, or to any interested party, the trust's tax return, any information relating to that return except for a summary of trust income in categories necessary for an interested party to complete his individual tax return, or any information which might specifically identify current trust assets, or those assets which have been sold or disposed of from trust holdings, other than information relating to the