

**Who can be a trustee**

**Minimum age**

You must be at least 16 years old to be a trustee of a charitable company or a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), unless the charity’s governing document says you must be older. You must be at least 18 to be a trustee of any other type of charity.

**Disqualification**

You must not act as a trustee if you are disqualified under the Charities Act, unless your disqualification has been waived by the Commission. Reasons for disqualification include if you:

* are disqualified as a company director
* have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud)
* are an undischarged bankrupt (or subject to sequestration in Scotland), or have a current composition or arrangement including an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) with your creditors
* have been removed as a trustee of any charity by the Commission (or the court) because of misconduct or mismanagement
* are on the sex offenders’ register

You can read the [automatic disqualification guidance for charities](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/automatic-disqualification-rule-changes-guidance-for-charities) in more detail.

If any of the current or new disqualification reasons apply to you, you may be able to get your disqualification lifted (or ‘waived’) by the Commission. The Commission will carefully consider whether granting a waiver is appropriate, although there are some situations where it has no power to grant a waiver – for example, where a trustee is disqualified as a company director.

Read more about [trustee disqualification](https://www.gov.uk/charity-trustee-disqualification).