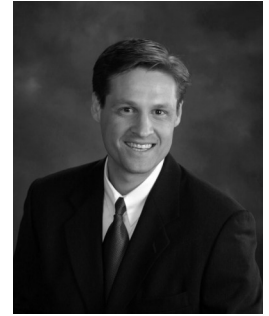




WHAT IS SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING?

BY RYAN F. PLATT, MBA
Special Care Planner



What is Special Needs Planning?

Special Needs Planning is a process to secure your and your loved one's future. It can be complex, as you blend your needs with your loved one's, as you determine how to utilize all available government benefits, and as you assemble an effective legal and financial strategy. For most families this process will include discussion of Wills, Trusts, Guardianship, Education on Government Benefits, defining your vision for your loved one's life, ensuring proper care-giving, how to provide resources for your loved one's lifetime, and more.

Why do Planning?

It is critical to understand how to integrate your assets with government benefits in order to maximize your loved one's quality of life. A Special Needs Plan™ ensures that you properly coordinate your financial and legal strategy for your benefit and the benefit of your loved one. When you are no longer able to be the primary caregiver, you will know that you did everything you could for your loved one. Completing A Special Needs Plan™ will provide you peace of mind knowing you have secured your loved one's future.

What if I Don't Plan?

If you don't put your own plan in place, the government will step in with their plan. This can result in any of the following:

- If the state cannot find a single home for all of your children, they could be sent to live in separate homes.
- The government decides how and when your assets will be disbursed.
- The government will choose who will care for your loved one.
- With no forethought and with no planning, the guardian and trustee will be blind in regards to the financial and emotional needs of your loved one.
- Regardless of the amount of money your loved one receives, it is automatically subject to repayment of Medicaid for all healthcare previously provided.
- In addition to payback of Medicaid, if the assets are more than \$2,000, your loved one will also lose SSI (Supplemental Security Income) and future Medicaid benefits
- With these government benefits now gone, your loved one's standard of living will be dramatically reduced.
- At this point, Medicare may be the only healthcare benefit available to your loved one. Unfortunately, the wait is up to 25 months – Can your loved one wait over 2 years for health care?

WWW.ASPECIALNEEDSPLAN.COM
(800) SN9-8610  **INFO@ASPECIALNEEDSPLAN.COM**