

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT CAN THE MONEY IN THE SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST BE USED FOR?

- Funds in the trust are used for the sole benefit of the beneficiary to help maintain or enhance their quality of life. Generally, the trusts can be used to pay for things that benefits do not cover. These supplemental expenses include but are not limited to: medical and dental (not otherwise paid), clothing, telephone, internet, transportation, vacation, alternative therapies.

WHAT CANNOT BE PURCHASED THROUGH A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST?

- Gifts, alcohol, pornography, gambling, guns, and other items that are not for the sole benefit of the beneficiary.

WHAT TYPES OF DISABILITIES ARE ALLOWED IN A SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST?

- An individual of any age with any type of mental, physical, development, physical, or other disability can join the trust. No documentation is necessary unless on SSI benefits.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A FIRST PARTY AND A THIRD-PARTY TRUST?

- A **First Party Trust** is funded with the beneficiary's own money or assets. Because of this, Medicaid has a lien on the funds and gets a portion of remaining assets upon the death of the beneficiary.
- A **Third-Party Trust** is funded by somebody other than the beneficiary (family member, friend, etc.). There is **no Medicaid Payback** here - the donor gets to decide what to do with the remaining funds upon the death of the beneficiary.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A POOLED TRUST?

- A Special Needs Pooled Trust is simply a trust that is pooled for investment purposes only. The trust could be First Party or Third-Party. Each person within the master pool trust has their own individual sub-account that their funds get disbursed from. The pooling of the funds helps to reduce costs and offer more services through the investment of the funds.
- For individuals over the age of 65 interested in establishing a Special Needs Trust, federal regulations state that a pooled trust is their only option.

IS THERE A MINIMUM REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A TRUST WITH PLAN?

- No, we accept trusts of any dollar amount.



ABOUT PLAN OF MA & RI:

PLAN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that offers special needs trust administration and social service coordination for people of all ages and all disabilities.

Through its extensive experience in special needs trust administration and its compassionate social workers, PLAN brings peace of mind and the assurance of a quality life to individuals with disabilities and their families.

LET'S CONNECT

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