

Planning for the Future:

Once an initial assessment of the situation is complete, the care and well being of children (be they minor or adult) who are mentally, physically or developmentally disabled can be greatly enhanced by your planning in areas such as:

Legal Planning

How will your estate be distributed when you die? Who will care for your child with special needs when you're no longer able to do so? How can your estate be arranged to provide for your child, but not disqualify your child from receiving government benefits?

Medical Planning

How can you best obtain and pay for the specialized medical care your child may require? Who will oversee your child's medical care when you're no longer here?

Financial Planning

What steps can you take to guarantee that your child will have a financial safety net? What financial aid is available? How should your assets be arranged to best provide for your child's future financial needs?

Education Planning

What steps can you take to make sure that your child receives the best possible education?

Planning for children with special needs is a complex process. Particularly when it comes to legal planning/legal documents, you are strongly advised to consult an attorney with experience in estate planning for families with children with special needs. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys is a professional association of attorneys with skills in planning for the elderly and disabled. More information is available at <http://www.naela.org>. Alternatively, a local organization that provides services to the disabled may be able to recommend an attorney with these specialized skills.