



Transition Plan Check-Up



Parents constantly worry that they may have missed a critical deadline or opportunity for their child in the complicated world of special needs planning. We created the “Transition Plan Check-Up” specifically to help parents of young adults resolve their worries about the road that lies ahead into adulthood. We recommend that you begin this review when your child enters high school.

During a “Transition Plan Check-Up”, our legal team will evaluate your child’s Transition Plan in three main areas: (1) Education, Vocational and Community Programming; (2) Government Benefits, Support and Programs and (3) Legal Planning. We will assess whether the Transition Plan reflects your family’s hopes and concerns for the future and the child’s support needs, as well as includes practical objectives and community experiences. We will provide thorough recommendations to address gaps and to ensure your child is on track to enter various aspects of adulthood. Upon completing this check-up, you can rest easier knowing that everything has been done to strengthen your child’s bridge to adulthood.

Government Benefits

Our team will help you understand the various benefits available and how to secure them. We will:

- Provide education on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Social Security for “Disabled Adult Children” (DAC), Medicaid, Medicaid Waivers and Medicare, the importance of the PUNS list (the Illinois Prioritization of Urgency of Need of Services).
- Explain how your child’s capacity to work (even for very short periods of time) determines eligibility for benefits and how the accumulation of Social Security Credits increases the value of financial and health benefits.
- Prepare and position your child’s eventual application for benefits to avoid common mistakes and obstacles to securing government benefits on a timely basis.



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Educational Planning

As our team evaluates your child's current IEP/ Transition Plan, we will:

- Compare the current status of your child's Transition Plan to the legal requirements.
- Identify and formulate the child's and family's goals for adult living and work. Verify that the Transition Plan incorporates real-life experiences, training and applicable classes (including post-secondary) that directly respond to those goals. Ensure that the Transition Plan accesses as many community-based resources as possible so support can continue post age-22.
- Evaluate the existing team and identify additional school personnel, gateway, agency or private staff, where necessary to accomplish child's goals; coordinate services and goals for short and long term implementation after transition; establish bridge from Transition age (18-22) to adulthood, so supports and services are not lost on 22nd birthday.

Legal Review

Our team will review the legal structures you have or wish to create to support your child in decision-making and to preserve and manage funds for your child's benefit. We will:

- Explain the differences between Powers of Attorney and Guardianship, and help you decide which is best for your child.
- Provide an overview of Special Needs Legal Planning, how Special Needs Trusts and ABLE accounts work, and how these strategies coordinate with Parents' Estate Planning (Estate Plans, Trusts, Wills and Powers of Attorney).
- Review your Existing Estate Plan / Special Needs Plan / Asset Inventory Audit.
- For divorced parents (or those contemplating divorce), explain how child support obligations / payments change at age 18. If child support continues post-age 18, prepare accordingly to prevent the loss of government benefits.

Please bring any questions, concerns or comments to your consultation.