

Special Needs

Welcome! You most likely know that having a loved one with special needs isn't easy. Your challenges are not only with the daily responsibilities, but also with the uncertainty of what the future holds. While your individual situation is unique, there are some commonalities that families of special needs loved ones share. One of these is the need for *reliable and accurate information*, whether it is about how to care for them physically, how to take care of yourself emotionally, or how to make financial and legal provisions for you and your loved one.

Information is one of the beginning essential tools that you can utilize to empower yourself in the midst of a difficult situation. We here at Palm Planning Group can help.

What is Special Needs Planning?

For parents of a loved one with special needs, there is a poignant realization that there may come a time, through sickness, disability or death, when you will not be able to provide care for your loved one. Planning involves a broad range of decisions designed to help secure the future of loved ones with special needs. A Special Needs Planner can work with you and your other advisors - your banker, accountant, lawyer, social workers and health care providers – to review your financial picture and offer options that make sense for your situation.

Key issues to consider are:

- **Protection of current or potential government benefits**
- **Wills and their importance**
- **Health Care Surrogate and how HIPAA laws can effect direction of care by parents**
- **Living Wills and Durable Power of Attorney**
- **Special Needs Trust; what it is and how it works**
- **Ways to fund a Special Needs Trust**
- **Letter of Intent – (Instructions to the next caregiver)**

***Our Team: Anthony M. Lofaso- Chartered Special Needs Consultant
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