



A GUIDE TO
Special Needs Trusts

METROPOLITAN LAW GROUP

WELCOME,

I'm Lisa Haster, Esq.

I've created this guide for you. My goal is to help you understand how my team will work with you to protect your most vulnerable loved ones.

Families of persons with disabilities sometimes face an array of different questions and issues when planning for future needs. Among these is how to plan ahead financially for the family member with a disability.



Supplemental Needs Trusts and Special Needs Trusts are used to benefit people with disabilities by supplementing and managing their resources while maintaining their eligibility for public assistance benefits.



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Who are Special Needs & Supplemental Needs Trusts for?

These Trusts are designed to enhance the life of a disabled person who is receiving government benefits or will receive benefits. By creating these Trusts, assets held in the Trust are protected from government recoupment. Typically, the assets of these Trusts are received as a result of an inheritance or a court settlement.

Funds held in Trust may enhance the Beneficiary's quality of life by providing for those supplemental needs, such as more sophisticated medical care, rehabilitative, recreational or educational aid, not provided by governmental assistance. Social Security and Medical Assistance provide a basic level of income support for food, clothing, shelter and medical care. The Supplemental Needs Trust is intended to "fill in the gaps" and supplement this basic support and care according to the individualized needs of the Beneficiary.

The Trustee must first rely on public or government benefits, however, if such benefits are not available or are insufficient, the Trustee is authorized to distribute funds to supplement the benefits. Examples of allowable supplemental needs could include trips, vacations and other travel, companion services and the costs of a health home aide, eyeglasses, radios, DC players, TVs, and computer equipment, etc.

What's the Difference Between Special Needs & Supplemental Needs Trusts?

Supplemental Needs Trusts and Special Needs Trusts are not exactly the same. The primary distinction is in whose money funds the trust.

If the person with a disability is funding the trust with their own assets, such as through an inheritance or personal injury settlement they've received, it is a Special Needs Trust.

If the trust is funded with assets belonging to someone other than the person with a disability or their spouse, such as by a parent or grandparent, then it is a Supplemental Needs Trust.

How do They Work?

In order to remain eligible for benefits, your disabled loved one must be under the designated income level. When an inheritance or a settlement award is received, eligibility is at risk. By creating an irrevocable Trust, the funds are protected and not counted against the income requirement.

Your disabled loved one is known as the "beneficiary". Typically, someone other than the beneficiary fulfills the role as the "Trustee" who manages the assets of the Trust and ensures the beneficiary remains eligible for benefits.

WHO WE ARE

Meet the Team



Brandon Thorp

Chief Executive Officer

✉ brandon@MetropolitanLawGroup.com

Brandon loves to spend his free time hunting, hiking, cooking & hanging out with his dogs Molly & Tucker.



Jodi Dybsetter

Paralegal

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Jodi is the proud mamma to the sassiest, smartest, most stylish little girl ever!



Barbara Connelly

Senior Director of Business Development

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Barbara enjoys spending time with her adult daughters, magical adventures at Disney, and twirling on the dance floor to her favorite country tunes.



GET STARTED

Timeline

STEP 1

Book your Virtual Strategy Session with our Lawyers at www.MetropolitanLawGroup.com/contact to book a consult with our office.

STEP 2

Sign your Legal Services Agreement via DocuSign and conveniently pay your legal fee online

STEP 3

Sign the documents prepared by our team

STEP 4

Follow the helpful instructions we provide to obtain a tax id number for the trust and open a bank account

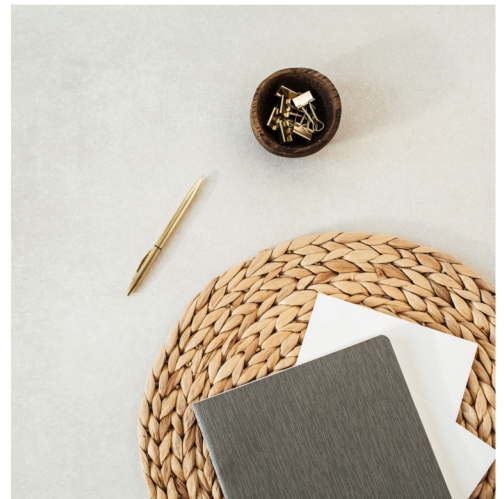
WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

Client Checklist

Please provide the items from the checklist below at your 1 hr Strategy Call.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ List of Beneficiary's legally declared disabilities
- ☐ Trustee and Alternate Trustee's Legal Names and contact information
- ☐ Beneficiary's Legal Name and DOB
- ☐ Decide where assets will go if Beneficiary passes



LET'S GET STARTED!

To get started, we ask you to book a virtual strategy session with our attorneys. Please choose a time that works for you at www.lisahaster.com/contact.

WWW.METROPOLITANLAWGROUP.COM/CONTACT

I hope that this Guide answers some of your most pressing questions about Supplemental Needs and Special Needs Trusts. I genuinely hope that my team and I can serve you!

Lisa Haster, Esq.



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