SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING

A Checklist to Get Started

Imagine for a few moments that you are no longer able to care for your child due to your own illness or death. Would your child be able to maintain the same quality of life that he or she now enjoys?

If you cannot answer "yes" to all these questions, then you may have some serious deficiencies in your financial and estate plan as it applies to your child with special needs.

	YES	NO
Have you completed a basic financial and trust fund analysis to determine adequate funding requirements for a *Special Needs Trust*?	❑	❑
If you have done some planning, have you worked with an individual or organization that specializes in financial planning for children with special needs?	❑	❑
Do you have a written Letter of Intent (LOI) to let others know what you want for the future for your child?	❑	❑
Have you earmarked a specific fund or life insurance to ensure the quality of your child's life?	❑	❑
Have you met with friends, relatives, and care providers to let them know about your plans? This is necessary to prevent a relative from inadvertently giving money directly to your child.	❑	❑
Have you asked someone to serve as a guardian/advocate for your child when you are unable to?	❑	❑
Do you understand all the government benefit programs that are available to your child for health care and supervision?	❑	❑
Do you have current wills that exclude your child by name? If NO, any funds received may have to be s*pent down* to qualify for various government benefits.	❑	❑
Do you have a *Special Needs Trust* to receive and manage all current and future resources? This kind of trust with very specific provisions can protect and preserve your child's assets.	❑	❑
If you have a *Special Needs Trust,* is it a *Living* trust?	❑	❑
If you have a *Special Needs Trust,* have you structured your plans so that NO retirement funds are payable to your trust?	❑	❑
Do you sincerely believe that you have explored all options, and therefore have done everything possible to ensure quality of life for your special needs child?	❑	❑