

Attorney Resources

Planning for the future is a vitally important issue for families of children and adults with disabilities. This is not an area that is best handled by “do-it-yourself” legal forms or by general practice attorneys. A publication by The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council, *Planning Now: A Futures and Estate Planning Guide for Parents of children and Adults with Disabilities* gives a good overview of the planning process and highlights the importance of planning and of involving professionals with experience and knowledge in the area of special needs planning and with supplemental needs trusts. The publication is available on line at www.md-council.org under “Publications” and copies are available for loan from The Arc of Frederick County and Service Coordination Offices.

The following attorneys have expressed interest in being included in an attorney resource list for individuals and families in the areas of wills, trusts and estate planning with families of children and adults with disabilities. This is not intended to be a complete list of attorneys who practice in this area. The Arc of Frederick County does not endorse any attorney whether or not his or her name appears on this list. Other sources of information are located at the end of this list.

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Other sources that may help you to identify an attorney in this area include:

- The Maryland Disability Law Center 410-727-6352
- The Lawyer Referral and Information Services of your local Bar Association.
- The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) is a non-profit association which includes attorneys who practice in the general area of Medicaid and elder law. Many of their members also practice in the area of special needs planning. They have a directory of their members of their website: www.naela.org.
- You may also want to talk with friends, colleagues or advocacy groups who have some experience in planning for children with disabilities. Also, attorneys who represent children and adults in related areas (i.e. special education) may have contact with attorneys practicing in the area of special needs planning.