

ENDOWMENT EDITION

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2011

The Importance of A Letter of Intent

Support Coordinators from The Arc of Frederick County assist families from a holistic point of view. In working with families through The Futures and Estate Planning Process, Support Coordinators connect them to financial planners and attorneys to develop special needs trusts and wills. To assist families in preparing for the personal details of estate planning, The Arc works closely with them to develop a Letter of Intent.

A Letter of Intent is a way for a caregiver family to leave critical information and provide a roadmap and summary of things they have learned over the years to best provide for their family members with an intellectual or developmental disability.

Whether a child is young or an adult, no one is immune to emergencies and crises that can come up at any time. A caregiver might think that no one can take on the role that they have played in their child's life. Yet at some point, someone else will be called to fulfill that role.

While there is no magic formula for writing a Letter of Intent, Support Coordinators from The Arc guide families through this sensitive process. Letters of Intent should contain general information such as the individual's name, address, phone number, and date of birth. But in addition to statistical information, Letters of Intent can also answer questions such as:

- *What activities does your child particularly like or dislike?*
- *Who are your child's closest friends and how can they be reached?*
- *What would you want to see your child's future look like?*
- *Are there certain things that someone should know about helping your child through particularly stressful times or transitions in your child's life?*
- *Are there people who you would want to play a critical role in your child's life?*
- *What support services does your child receive, who provides them, and how are they paid for?*

The above list is just a brief overview of questions that a Letter of Intent can address. Support Coordinators from The Arc meet individually with families we serve and their supports to develop comprehensive Letters of Intent to proactively plan for the future. This step is an important part of the Futures and Estate Planning Process. Often, developing a Letter of Intent is the key relationship builder that allows Support Coordinators to earn the trust of families in working through the very delicate and sensitive topic of Futures and Estate Planning.

The Arc of Frederick County would like to send our sincerest thanks to our generous endowment fund contributors who support The Arc's mission. Your commitment to The Arc of Frederick County makes it possible for Support Coordinators to spend the time with and truly get to know families so that we can provide a meaningful and quality service.

THANK YOU!



On behalf of The Arc of Frederick County, I would like to thank you again for your generosity.

Because of your support, we can actively work with families, assisting them in designing plans for their sons and daughters with developmental disabilities for when they are no longer able to care for them due to the parents' advancing age or death. We also have been able to work with local attorneys and financial planners so that they have the expertise to design the disability-specific wills, trusts, and other documents that need to be in place for families' plans to work after the parents have passed.

We would be honored if you or any of your staff would be interested in visiting the agency to see our services. If this is something that is of interest to you, please let me know.

Thank you for making this a priority in your charitable gifts. Again, we truly appreciate everything you have done, and want you to know that your donations have been used very successfully to serve the Frederick community.

-Shauna Clay
301.663.0909 x40
sclay@arcfc.org

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ESTATE PLANNING PACKAGE THANKS

The Arc of Frederick County sends out a big thank you to The Law Offices of Scott Alan Morrison, P.A. for donating an Estate Planning Package towards our 26th Annual Trivia Playoff Silent Auction back in April. Much to our delight, the winner of the planning package donated it back to us to give to a family we serve. The family has already written a Letter of Intent and began the legal paperwork. Thank you again to The Law Offices of Scott Alan Morrison and our generous donor who helped make a family's wishes come true.



To receive personal assistance with Futures and Estate Planning, please contact:

Jean Doyle @ 301.663.0909 ext 15 or jdoyle@arcfc.org

The Arc of Frederick County's Sprout Film Festival

Thursday, October 27, 2011 @ 4:15 PM and 7:30 PM
Holiday Cinemas, 100 Baughman's Lane, Frederick

Showcasing films relating to the field of developmental disabilities

4:15 PM Family Matinee
will feature family-oriented films
\$6.00 per person or
\$20.00 family 4 pack

7:30 PM Showing
*will feature films for
older teens and adults*
\$8.00 per person

Attend both shows for \$12.00

Tickets can be purchased online www.arcfc.org, by calling The Arc 301-663-0909 ext 40, or by mailing a check payable to The Arc of Frederick County, 620A Research Court, Frederick, MD 21703.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door.

The Arc of Frederick County Endowment Edition

620-A Research Court
Frederick, Maryland 21703

Phone: 301-663-0909

Fax: 301-695-6454

E-mail: info@arcfc.org or SClay@arcfc.org

www.arcfc.org

Mission Statement

The Arc of Frederick County provides advocacy, access to resources, and assistance in increasing individual and family connections for people with developmental disabilities. The organization seeks creative solutions to help people with developmental disabilities attain their goals.

