Sussan | Greenwald & Wesler

YOUR LAW FIRM for LIFE

A Legacy of Service • New Jersey Special Education Law Since 1975



FULL SPECTRUM
OF LEGAL SERVICES



# ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS DESERVE LEGAL PROTECTION

## Sussan, Greenwald & Wesler is Your Advocate When It Comes to Guardianship

**Sussan, Greenwald & Wesler** is a New Jersey law firm that devotes its practice to representing families of people with special needs.



#### Guardianship is an important legal protection for adults with special needs.

- As your family member approaches his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, you should consider taking action that will legally appoint you as his or her guardian.
- By doing this, you'll be able to act on his or her behalf when making important decisions regarding education, medical treatment, and financial matters.

Courts consider Guardianship requests seriously, as we are asking the Court to remove the adult rights from an individual.

#### We can help you navigate this intricate process:

- Filing a Guardianship Complaint with the court
- Filing certifications in support of Guardianship from two physicians, or one physician and a licensed psychologist

Obtaining Guardianship can be challenging and having an attorney involved helps ensure well-substantiated and timely submissions to the Court, interaction with the court-appointed attorney to help explain the necessity of Guardianship, and submission of all other required paperwork.

visit: www.SGWLawFirm.com for more information



#### **Does Your Child Need a Special Needs Trust?**

### There are many ways in which a special needs trust can benefit your child:

- With a special needs trust, your child can enjoy the use of property intended to be held for their benefit.
- Such trusts provide for those who may lack the mental capacity to handle their own financial affairs.
- · They can also offer fiscal advantages.
- They help beneficiaries retain access to essential government benefits.
- They can provide benefits to, and protect the assets of, physically and mentally disabled people.
- They are designed to pay for products or services otherwise excluded from public funding. If there is enough funding, your child may also receive spending money to use for other expenses.

#### **Understanding Special Needs Trusts**

Through a special needs trust, a disabled beneficiary can receive gifts, lawsuit settlements and other funds without being denied eligibility for many incomedependent government programs.



Our attorneys draft these trust documents so that the money being provided to the disabled child (the "beneficiary") will not be considered as belonging to the beneficiary when the government determines benefit eligibility.

Special needs trusts are frequently created by a parent or another family member for a child with special needs even though the child may be an adult by the time the trust is created or funded. Such trusts can also be set up in a will as a way for someone to leave assets to a disabled relative.



#### **Collaborative Methodology**

We use a team approach to handle issues regarding your family member with special needs. This allows you greater access to attorneys when you encounter difficulties in dealing with your school district, or as emergencies arise.

#### Real-Life Experience in Special Education

Sussan, Greenwald & Wesler attorneys are all degreed and licensed professionals, all of whom advance their work in the special education arena. We have actual life experience working in schools, teaching, assessing, developing, counseling, and implementing programs for children.

#### **Whole-Child Perspective**

Our success is directly related to the hands-on, whole-child approach we take in the detailed matter of your case. Our goal is to work with you to determine the services to which your child is entitled – and to get them as expeditiously as possible.

#### We're Here to HELP\_\_\_\_

For more than 40 years, Sussan, Greenwald & Wesler has helped parents of special needs children manage issues from behavioral disorders to diabetes. If you need assistance, contact us today to discuss your child's special education needs.

We would be happy to answer your questions over the phone at (609) 409-3500 or see you for an initial consultation in the comfort of our office.



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