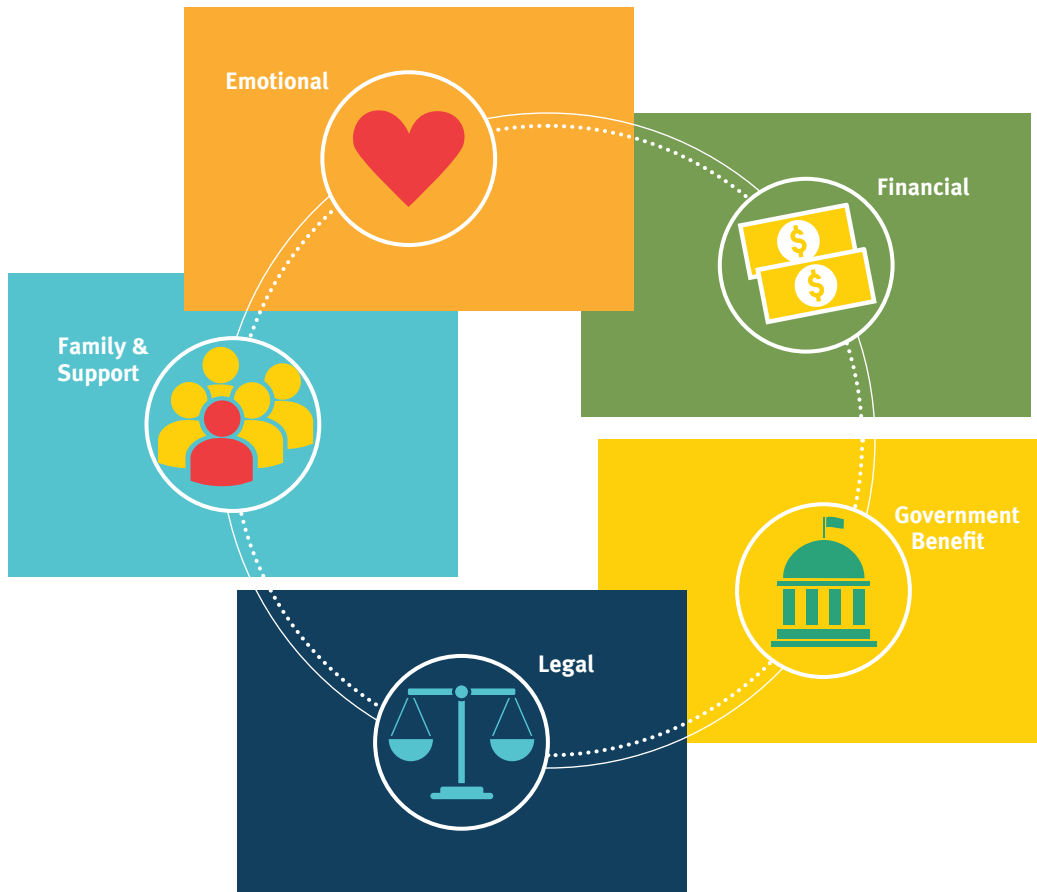


THE HOUSING CHECKLIST



The Special Needs Financial Planning Team at Affinia Financial Group

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The planning process may seem overwhelming. We have been there both personally and professionally. This list is not exhaustive but designed to serve as a guide to get you started in the planning process.



GOVERNMENT BENEFIT FACTORS:

Prior to turning 18

- › Limit assets in child's name to \$2000 or less.
- › Research all government agencies that may provide support.

Upon 18th Birthday

- › Apply for SSI and Medicaid.
- › Apply for Section 8 housing subsidy.
- › Apply for Health Insurance Premium Reimbursement.
- › Research all government agencies that may provide support.
- › Determine which is best: Adult Family Care or Personal Care Assistant.
- › Never say never when determining eligibility or how a program applies to your situation: program rules are complicated and sometimes misunderstood.



LEGAL FACTORS:

Age 18

- › Analyze guardianship vs. guardianship alternatives.
- › Create or review your estate plan.
- › Establish a Special Needs Trust, if appropriate.
- › Name trustees, successor trustees, and guardians.
- › Update and coordinate beneficiary designations for insurance, retirement plans and annuities with your estate plan.
- › Review gifting strategies from parents, grandparents and others.
- › Review property and casualty insurance coverage, make sure you have an umbrella policy.
- › Determine housing ownership. Options include: trust, child, parents, LLC, etc.
- › If you are teaming up with other families, develop an operating agreement with all parties involved. This may include other families, agencies and other professionals.
- › If personally hiring staff, create an employee manual, formalize payroll (W2 vs. independent contractors:1099).



EMOTIONAL FACTORS:

- › Are you ready to let go?
- › Is your child ready for change?
- › Update or create a Letter of Intent.
- › Communicate a clear vision for your child's future.



FAMILY & SUPPORT FACTORS:

- › Have an independent evaluation to identify skills and abilities to help determine the supports required.
- › Explore various housing options.
- › Engage brothers and sisters.
- › Create a team consisting of family, friends and professionals to support the individual and the trustee and guardian when fulfilling their roles.
- › Identify natural supports in your community beyond paid staff to assist with life skills, social skills, recreation, hobbies, interests, and employment.



FINANCIAL FACTORS:

Parents:

- › Create a balance sheet and budget.
- › List an inventory of estate assets.
- › Know your Social Security benefits and options.
- › Know your employer provided benefits.
- › Obtain current information about your life, disability, long-term care and health insurance policies.

Child:

- › List government benefits your child receives.
- › Determine your child's earnings.
- › List all assets in your child's name, e.g. UTMA, ABLE, etc.
- › Create a current summary of expenses.
- › Create an estimated summary of future expenses when living outside the family home.
- › Consider potential gifts and inheritances.
- › Consider income from Supplemental Needs Trust.



PULLING IT TOGETHER:

Gather all the information from the Five Factors of Special Needs Financial Planning™ into a cohesive and actionable plan for you and your family. This plan should work toward achieving the following:

1. Take care of your own personal financial security for your goals during your lifetime.
2. Financially plan to provide for the comprehensive needs of your child for his/her lifetime.
3. Discuss different housing options appropriate for your child's situation and needs that are both achievable and affordable for your family.
4. Address options to sustain your plan and your vision for two generations.
5. Build a Team to Carry On for when you are no longer able to be there for your child.
6. Continue to monitor and modify your plan as circumstances change.

We are here to help...



COMPREHENSIVE SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNING & WEALTH MANAGEMENT FOR TWO GENERATIONS

We share a common bond with you. We are parents and siblings of people with special needs.

As Certified Financial Planning Professionals,[™] we understand the importance of setting and achieving financial goals. We also know, having worked with families for more than 20 years, that planning is about more than the money; it's about creating a full life.

*The Special Needs Financial
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SOURCE: "The Special Needs Planning Guide: How to Prepare for Every Stage of Your Child's Life" (John W. Nadworny, CFP,[®] and Cynthia R. Haddad, CFP,[®] authors) Brookes Publishing Co., Copyright 2007. Use of this document for further distribution prohibited without prior permission of Special Needs Financial Planning LLC. Financial planning and investment advice offered through Affinia Financial Group, LLC, a registered investment advisor. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. Special Needs Financial Planning LLC, Affinia Financial Group, LLC and LPL Financial are separate entities. This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax or legal advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific situation with a qualified tax or legal advisor.