



Supporting and empowering individuals with disabilities and their families through Education, Outreach, Networking, and Future Planning Services.



MARCH 2018

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Developmental Disabilities Month



In 1987, the Congress, by Public Law 99 - 483, designated the month of March as "National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this event.

"Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. I invite all individuals, agencies, and organizations concerned with the problem of developmental disabilities to observe this month with appropriate observances and activities directed toward increasing public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans with developmental disabilities. I urge all Americans to join me in

according to our fellow citizens with such disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential."

ACHIEVA is committed to supporting and empowering people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve self-determined lifestyles, celebrate abilities and exceed expectations. We're dedicated to recognizing I/DD awareness in the month of March and all year long.



ACHIEVA works to support and protect the rights of and to promote independence in the lives of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities while supporting thousands of individuals and their families.

[Visit the ACHIEVA Website](#)

Many Parents of Children with Disabilities Don't Make Care Plans

Sharita Forrest, Education Editor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

A new study suggests, fewer than half of parents of children with intellectual and developmental (I/DD) disabilities make long-term plans about who will take over their child's care if the parent or other relative providing care dies or becomes incapacitated.

More than 380 parents - primarily mothers - of individuals with disabilities participated in a web-based national survey about planning for their children's care. The parents who responded to the survey ranged in age from 40 to 83, and their offspring with disabilities were ages 3 to 68. Parents in the study were asked whether they had completed 11 items related to planning for their child's long-term needs, such as identifying a successor to the current family caregiver, researching residential programs or establishing a special-needs trust.

More than 12 percent of the parents who participated reported they had taken none of these actions to ensure their child's needs would be met if the parent or other caregiver died or was otherwise unable to continue assisting the adult or minor child with disabilities.

[Read more here](#)



Concerns about the future are very real for families of loved ones with disabilities. Where will your child live after you and your spouse are no longer alive? Who will care for your child, and where will the money come from? Thinking about the future can be challenging and emotional.

ACHIEVA Family Trust was created in 1998 to address parents' concerns about their children's futures, and now serves over 2,200 individuals, providing peace of mind to families and caregivers. Our core focus is working with individuals with disabilities and their families, to help them plan for their future and enhance their lives through special needs trusts.

Special Needs Trusts enable an individual with a disability to save money and protect assets without compromising vital government benefits, such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). ACHIEVA Family Trust manages three kinds of trusts: Common Law; Pooled; and Payback.

When planning for the future, families also have to consider, among other things, Last Will and Testament, Advanced Directives, Power of Attorney, Guardianship, Government Benefits, Future Living Situation, Special Needs Trust and ABLE Accounts. Please visit [ACHIEVA Family Trust](#) for more information on how we may be able to help you.

10 Things to Know About Your New Medicare Card

The Medicare Access and CHIP ReAuthorization Act of 2015 requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to remove Social Security Numbers from all Medicare cards by April 2019. Medicare is mailing new Medicare cards starting in April 2018.



Here are 10 things to know about your new Medicare card:

- 1. Mailing takes time:** Your card may arrive at a different time than your friend's or neighbor's.
- 2. Destroy your old Medicare card:** Once you get your new Medicare card, destroy your old Medicare card and start using your new card right away.
- 3. Guard your card:** Only give your new Medicare Number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurers, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.
- 4. Your Medicare Number is unique:** Your card has a new number instead of your Social Security Number. This new number is unique to you.
- 5. Your new card is paper:** Paper cards are easier for many providers to use and copy, and they save taxpayers a lot of money. Plus, you can print your own replacement card if you need one!

[Read more here](#)

PA ABLE SAVINGS PROGRAM

In less than a year, the PA ABLE Savings Program (PA ABLE) has become one of the fastest growing ABLE plans in the nation and is now helping more than 1,000 people save for their future.

Below are some milestones that PA ABLE reached:

April 2017- PA ABLE launches with a kickoff event at the Pennsylvania State Capitol. State Treasurer Joe Torsella and United States Senator Robert Casey, who helped pass the federal legislation to create ABLE accounts, speak to a packed rotunda!

August 2017- PA ABLE surpassed \$1 million in assets.

September 2017- More than 200 friends and partners joined Treasurer Torsella at a PA ABLE community event in Pittsburgh.

November 2017- Governor Tom Wolf signed legislation making PA ABLE contributions PA state income tax deductible.

December 2017- PA ABLE closed out 2017 with its best week - \$482,000 in contributions - as people contributed before the end of the tax year.

January 2018 - Our 1,000th account is opened and PA ABLE assets topped \$5 million! As an account owner, advocate, partner, or friend, you have as much to celebrate as we do. Your continued support is helping to make the PA ABLE Savings Program one of the best in the nation, and for that, we thank you.

Please continue to visit PAABLE.gov to learn more about the PA ABLE Savings Program.

UPCOMING SPEAKER PROGRAMS

Presented by ACHIEVA Family Trust and ACHIEVA Advocacy

Friday March 9, 2018

**Understanding Guardianship and Power of Attorney -
What's Best For My Loved One?**

9 - 11 A.M.

Speaker - Nora Gieg Chatha, Esq.

[Attend in person](#)

[Attend via live webinar](#)

Friday April 13, 2018

Update on Medicaid Services in Pennsylvania

9 - 11 A.M.

Speakers - Janice Meinert, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project and Erin Ninehouser, Pennsylvania Health Access Network

[Attend in person](#)

[Attend via live webinar](#)

**Location of Programs:
ACHIEVA
711 Bingham St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
412-995-5000 x589**

Sponsored by

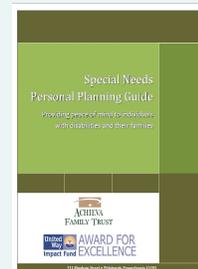


*Free and Accessible Parking
Light breakfast will be served*

SPECIAL NEEDS FUTURE PLANNING RESOURCES

Special Needs Personal Planning Guide ([DOWNLOAD](#))

The Future Planning Guide is a resource and profile of your family member containing all of the information that makes them unique. The details of this picture includes your family member's health history as well as their experiences with life and learning, family and friends and likes and dislikes. The Future Planning Guide assists in developing a plan to help ensure that your family member's needs are met day-to-day, on special occasions and in times of emergency.

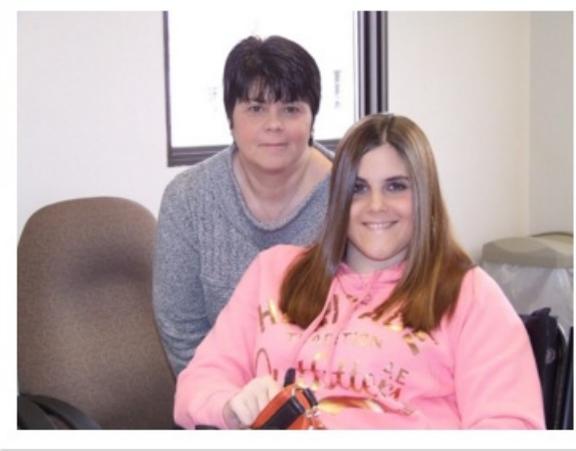


Future Planning Attorney List (Greater Pittsburgh Area) ([DOWNLOAD](#))



See our list of attorneys located in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area who have expressed an interest and are willing to assist families and individuals with disabilities regarding their future planning needs. These attorneys can assist families in determining the types of future planning that will best meet their needs. In addition, these attorneys are able to draft future planning documents that may include a Last Will and Testament, Special Needs Trust, Power of Attorney and Living Will. If you are interested in future planning, please feel free to contact one or more of the attorneys listed in to discuss your needs.

ACHIEVA Family Trust for Special Needs Trusts ([WEBSITE](#))



“ ACHIEVA protects her money from her going out and blowing it, or anyone else getting their hands on it. It helps her use that money and feel normal to do the things she likes. With the trust, Kara can do the same things that other kids do. ”

ACHIEVA Family Trust has been providing services to help families and individuals with disabilities plan for their future for more than 20 years. Individuals with disabilities and their families face significant challenges in planning for their financial stability. ACHIEVA Family Trust provides information to individuals and can serve as trustee for several kinds of trusts benefiting individuals with disabilities.

ACHIEVA Family Trust:

- Serves as Corporate Trustee for Common Law Trusts, Pooled Trusts and Payback Trusts to benefit individuals with disabilities.
- Distributes trust funds to increase individuals' quality of life while preserving eligibility for essential government services.
- Adds case management and social work expertise to the traditional role of corporate trustee.
- Utilizes the expertise of PNC Bank and Capital Group for Investment Management.

VIEW ARCHIVED WEBINARS

Housing Options for Individuals with Disabilities

Presenter: Michelle Stockunas, Program Manager, ACHIEVA, A Home of My Own

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

I WANT TO WORK BUT I AM AFRAID OF LOSING MY GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Presenters: Bill Frase, Assistant Director of Community Employment, ACHIEVA, Joy Smith, Area Manager AHEDD, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Marci Katona, and Josie Badger, #IWantToWork Campaign Manager

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Presenter: Jeff Ruder, Esq., Ruder Law

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS (ODP) - WAIVER RENEWALS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED AND PFDS WAIVERS, INCLUDING THE NEW SERVICES

Presenter: Kristin Ahrens, Director, Bureau of policy and Quality Management, ODP

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MANAGED LONG TERM CARE AND WAIVERS

Presenter: Janice Meinert, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

HIPAA LAWS AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION/MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

*Presenters: Mark Zacharia, Esq., Associate Counsel, UPMC Corporate Legal Department
Julianne Washington, Esq.*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

TURNING 26? HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY NEW WORLD OF HEALTH INSURANCE

*Presenters: Sally Jo Snyder and Leslie Bachurski, Consumer Health Coalition
Libby Powers and Susan Saule, CHANGE Children's Hospital*

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

EDUCATIONAL TRANSITION PLANNING FOR CHILDREN AGES 14 - 22

Presenters: Dr. Erin Grimm, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Eric Jankoski, Baldwin Whitehall School District Transition Coordinator, Mary Hartley, 21 & ABLE, United Way of Southwestern PA, Sarah Vogel, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

GUARDIANSHIP & POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Presenters: Heidi Rai Stewart, Esq. and Matthew Lautman, Esq., Houston Harbaugh

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SSI, SSDI & REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES

Presenter: Elaine Cole, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

MEDICAID, MAWD, & WAIVERS

Presenter: Erin Guay, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

MEDICARE

Presenter: Bill McKendree, Team Leader, APPRISE State Health Insurance Program

ACHIEVA Family Trust

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[Visit Our Website](#)

[Email Us](#)

ACHIEVA is an agency that is dedicated to providing the best quality services for people with disabilities in "celebrating abilities and exceeding expectations."

STAY CONNECTED

