

## Special People Have Special Needs

A Disabled Child turning 18 will be considered an Adult under the rules of Social Security and most Government benefit programs. Many of the programs and benefits a family may be used to receiving may no longer be available and a significant financial burden may be placed on the individual or the family.

Programs and benefits are still available but require careful application and administration to maximize the potential resources. Doing this work on your own can be daunting and having someone experienced in the financial and legal aspects is quite valuable.

And legal and financial issues are not the only considerations to take into account as this Disabled Child transitions in Adulthood. Most of the same issues facing any person turning 18 are equally important to a Disabled Person. Social Workers, Care Coordinators, Peer Specialists and many others are available to help this transition be as productive and positive as possible. Here again, you may find the services of professionals of significant value.

### Where do you find these professionals?

One of the best resources in locating professionals in the financial and legal realm is through the referrals of the Special Needs Alliance. ([www.specialneedsalliance.org](http://www.specialneedsalliance.org)) The Caregiver Foundation works with Attorneys who are qualified members of the Special Needs Alliance.

The Caregiver Foundation works with both private and Government agencies specializing in physical and mental health services. Job Coaching, on-going educational programs, specialized physical therapy, developmental



counseling; these are just a few of the many areas The Caregiver Foundation coordinates and oversees in working with our clients.

### What do I need to do to prepare?

It is important to have as organized a record of the benefits from both private and public sources as possible. In addition, as complete a medical record to enable future providers to fully understand the past history of care. Lastly, a history of the social and family interactions that have been a part of life up until this transition will make it possible for as seamless a transition as possible.

### This seems like more than I may be able to handle.

It well may be. Often, family members become overwhelmed with the new responsibilities and research, coordination and oversight. The Caregiver Foundation has experienced staff ready and able to work with families and individuals and their professionals to make transitioning from the Disabled Child status to the Disabled Adult realm. And their work does not stop there. The Caregiver Foundation is prepared to administer Special Needs Trusts, Private Arrangement Trusts, Guardianships and Conservatorships, and general oversight. Compassion and expertise count highly in effectively serving the needs of Disabled Adults.