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**ESTATE PLANNING FOR FAMILIES  
WITH A DISABLED CHILD**

**“SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST”**

Attorney Robert H. Farley, Jr. is available to meet with you and discuss the appropriate estate plan for your disabled child in order to maximize government benefits for your child and what would be the legal fees for the estate plan. Unlike certain attorneys in this area of practice, there is no fee for the initial consultation.

Parents of a disabled child should establish a “Special Needs Trust” to benefit the child. A “Special Needs Trust” allows the parents or anyone to direct money to the trust so that the funds can be used by the Trustee(s) to benefit the disabled person without making him or her ineligible for the receipt of governmental benefits based on need such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid and its medical benefits. Without a “Special Needs Trust” the disabled person may be required to exhaust almost his or her inheritance before becoming eligible for government benefits or the funds may be required to be paid over to the government as reimbursement for care and expenses of the disabled person.

The funds in the “Special Needs Trust” can be used to supplement and not supplant government benefits. The purpose of the “Special Needs Trust” is to avoid the disabled person from being disqualified from receiving government benefits and to maximize financial resources to ultimately provide him or her with the best quality of life due to their disability. It is very important that the attorney who drafts the “Special Needs Trust” has experience in the area and does not draft the typical Trust which many families use in their estate planning.

Robert H. Farley, Jr., Attorney, has provided legal representation to individuals with disabilities in a variety of areas, including special education, guardianship, adult services and special needs trust / estate planning.

He has successfully represented children and adults with developmental disabilities in obtaining the appropriate educational, day programming and residential services for his clients. In one precedent setting case, the United States Department of Justice filed a legal brief before the United States Court of Appeals in support of the claim raised by Mr. Farley that developmentally disabled persons are entitled to sue the State of Illinois under the Americans for Disability Act to receive services in the least restrictive setting (community).

Mr. Farley has received from "The Arc of Illinois" the "President's Award - For Outstanding Legal Advocacy On Behalf Of People With Developmental Disabilities In Illinois." From "Advocates United," Mr. Farley received an award for "Extraordinary Dedication & Tireless Work For Quality Life Choices For All People With Disabilities."

Mr. Farley is the proud father of four children, including Ryan, his 26 year old developmentally disabled son.