

Choosing an Attorney

Families of children and adults talk about planning for the future. This is an area that requires special assistance.

Some people do not get started on their futures planning because they do not know where to begin. A good first step is to consult with an attorney who is knowledgeable about estate planning for adults and children with disabilities. It is important to work with a Maryland attorney, since much of the law that must be considered is state specific. It is also important to work with an attorney who concentrates in special needs planning, since the laws in this area are complex and details change frequently.

But how do you find an attorney? Here are some suggestions.

- Talk with other families who have children with disabilities.
- Contact local advocacy groups (including your local Arc).
- Talk with local attorneys who practice in other areas of law, but may know of attorneys who concentrate in this area.
- Consider attorneys who are members of organizations concentrating in this area. A surprising fact is that many of the rules for elder law planning and special needs planning are similar: they both must be very knowledgeable about Medicaid law and implications.

For more information on topics discussed in this fact sheet, contact

The Arc of Frederick County.

Phone: 301-663-0909

www.arcfc.org

Choosing an Attorney, page 2

The following attorneys have expressed interest in being included in an attorney resource list for individuals and families in the areas of wills, trusts and estate planning with families of children and adults with disabilities. This is not intended to be a complete list of attorneys who practice in this area. The Arc of Frederick County does not endorse any attorney whether or not his or her name appears on this list.

Other sources that may help you identify an attorney in this area include:

- The Maryland Disability Law Center 410-727-6352
- The Lawyer Referral and Information Services of your local Bar Association.
- You may also find it helpful to contact friends, colleagues or advocacy groups who have had some experience in planning for children with disabilities. Also, attorneys who represent children and adults in related areas (i.e. special education) may have contact with attorneys who practice in the area of special needs planning.
- The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys is a non-profit association which assists lawyers, bar organizations and others who work with older clients and their families. They have a searchable directory of their members on their website: www.naela.org.

Please let your Service Coordinator or Support Coordinator know of your experiences if you use or contact these attorneys or if you have comments that would be helpful to us.

For more information on topics discussed in this fact sheet, contact
The Arc of Frederick County.
Phone: 301-663-0909
www.arcfc.org



These Fact Sheets are designed to provide general information only and are not designed to provide legal advice. Families and individuals are strongly urged to consult with an attorney and other appropriate professionals regarding their individual situation before taking action.

Choosing an Attorney, page 3

Michael Day, Esq.
The Law Office of
Michael G. Day and Assoc.
10715 Downsville Pike
Hagerstown, MD 21740
301-739-6820
(Hagerstown number)
Or 301-724-4713
(Cumberland number)
michaeld@mikedaylaw.com

Barry A. Fierst, Esq.
Law Offices of Fierst & Fink, P.C.
200-A Monroe Street, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20850
301-762-8872
Bfierst@aol.com

Jason Frank, Esq.,
Mary O'Byrne, Esq.
Frank, Frank and Scherr, LLC
1400 Front Avenue, Suite 200
Lutherville, MD 21093
410-337-8900
jfrank@frankelderlaw.com
mobyne@frankelderlaw.com

Louise Gonzales, Esq.
Hylton and Gonzales
201 N. Charles Street, Suite 2200
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-547-0900
l.gonzolas@hyltongonzales.com

Ann Karwacki Goodman, Esq.
Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
515 Dean Road
Centreville, MD 21617
410-820-0256
agoodman@milesstockbridge.com

Stephanie Grogan, Esq.
5907 Massachusetts Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-263-9467
sgrogan@groganlawoffices.com

W. Stevens Hidey, Esq.
Hidey, Coyle & Monteleone
110 Washington Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
301-722-0123
wsh@hideycoyle.com

Morris Klein, Esq.
4550 Montgomery Avenue, # 601N
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-652-4462
morrisk@capaccess.org

Edmund W. Law, Esq.
120 West Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-698-0081
ewlaw@erols.com

Cristine E. LoVetro, Esq.
Law Office of
Cristine Evans LoVetro, LLC
100 West Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-620-8585
Cristine@LoVetrolawoffice.com

Janet I. McCurdy, Esq.
115 W. Patrick Street
Frederick, MD 21701
301-698-1932
jmccurdy@jmccurdyllaw.com

Scott Alan Morrison, P.A.
141 W. Patrick Street, Suite #300
Frederick, MD 21701
301-694-6262
www.samlawoffice.com

Nicole Livingston, Esq. and
Colleen Sinclair Prosser, Esq.
SinclairProsser Law, LLC
900 Bestgate Road, Suite 103
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-573-4818
www.sinclairprosserlaw.com

Note: Additional offices in Bowie and Millersville

Sean P. O'Keefe, Esq.
O'Keefe Legal Services, LLC
23 West Main Street #A
Middletown, MD 21769
301-473-1842
spokeye@okeefelegal.com

Jeanne F. Singer, Esq.
Law Offices of
Jeanne F. Singer, PA
650 N. Bentz Street #101
Frederick, MD 21701
240-356-0140
office@jsingerlaw.com

Catherine E. Stavely, Esq.
124 South Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-268-9246
cestavely@verizon.net

Laura N. Venezia, Esq.
Conklyn & Associates
31 West Patrick Street #120
Frederick MD 21701
301-620-1190
lauravenezia@verizon.net

Robin L. Weisse, Esq.
The Weisse Group, LLC
7543 Main Street, Suite 101
Sykesville, MD 21784
410-875-2588
rlweisse@weissegroup.com

Nomiki Weitzel, Esq.
Law Offices of
Nomiki Bouloubassis Weitzel and
Assoc
7652 Belair Road
Baltimore, MD 21236
410-663-9400
nomikiw@aol.com

Additional office in Harford County, MD

Updated March 2014

Questions to Ask an Attorney

- How often do you work with families planning for a child with disabilities?
- About how many special needs trusts have you drafted?
- Are you familiar with alternatives to guardianship, including surrogate decision making?
- How familiar are you with public benefits, especially those that may be important to my child?
- Depending on the size of your estate, you may also want to know the attorney's background in general estate planning and tax law.
- What are your fees?

Your Notes:

For more information on topics discussed in this fact sheet, contact
The Arc of Frederick County.
Phone: 301-663-0909
www.arcfc.org