

# **Special Needs Trusts:**

## **What is a Special Needs Trust?**

A Special Needs Trust allows an individual to still use Social Security, Medicaid, and other federal benefit programs while having money saved in a trust. A trust can be established by a parent, grandparent, a court, or legal guardian of an individual with a disability.

## **What are the requirements?**

The trust beneficiary must have a disability

- Set up by an attorney
- Everything in the trust must be assets of the individual. This can include assets gifted to the individual
- All assets must be in the trust before the individual turns 65 years old
- When the trust beneficiary passes away, the NJ Medicaid program must be reimbursed up to the total amount of Medicaid benefits paid to the individual during their lifetime

## **How can you spend your Special Needs Trust?**

This type of trust can be used to supplement any benefits from Federal and State programs. It can also be used for:

- housing costs
- transportation
- caregiver costs
- and more!

## **Helpful Websites:**

[Plan NJ](#)

[Department of Human Resources - Trust Accounts](#)