

TRANSITION TIMELINE

Checklist ✓

Age 14-18

- Participate in **Transition Planning at IEP meetings**
 - Begin to think about where you see your child as an adult, and become an active participant by helping to select the skills on which your child will work, including identifying interests and learning style
 - Begin career exploration

- Contact **Perform Care** (formally DDD)
 - Representatives are available 24 hours, 7 days a week, to provide support, including respite services, in-home therapy, family support services, behavioral supports, summer camp assistance, assistive technology devices, outpatient services, and mobile crisis response
www.performcarenj.org 1-877-652-7624

- Plan to save for **Guardianship**
 - Most lawyers cost several thousand dollars. Guardianship is mandatory in order for parents to continue assisting their child in making decisions about his/her personal and financial needs beyond the age of 18 years

- Establish a **Special Needs Trust**
 - Contact a lawyer who specializes in dealing with the financial planning of children with special needs
 - There is a threshold on the amount of money a person with disabilities may have in his/her own name. When the threshold is exceeded, he/she will be ineligible for important government benefits, such as SSI and Medicaid
 - A special needs trust can help protect assets. Assets that are held in a properly drafted special needs trust are not considered when determining eligibility for “means-tested” government benefits

Age 16-21

- Explore **Family Support Center**
 - Clearinghouse of up-to-date information on national, state and local family support programs, services and disabilities
www.fscnj.org 1-800- 372-6510
- Visit **Adult Programs**
 - Tour programs to determine available and appropriate placements
- Participate in **Planning for Adult Life**
 - Website with activities for young adults, ages 16-21, including trainings, information, resource materials, and webinars
www.PlanningForAdultLife.org
- Begin **Structured Learning Experiences**
 - Identify work experiences in the community designed for career awareness and career exploration

Age 17

- Establish **Guardianship**
 - Contact a lawyer who specializes in the guardianship of children with special needs to ensure that you are the one determining what is in the best interest of your child
- Establish a **Special Needs Trust**

Age 18

- Register with **DDD** (Division of Developmental Disabilities)
 - Access to funding for post-21 services and programs
www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd 1-800-832-9173
- Guardianship** should now be in effect
- Social Security** SSI eligibility is based on child's assets
- Medicaid** is available for your child
<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/services/medicaideligibility.html>
- Center for Independent Living**
 - Advocacy group with activities for adults who are 18+ years
www.adacil.org 732-738-4388

Age 21

- This is the **Final School Year**
 - Be certain all appropriate contacts to agencies have been made to assist with the transition from school to post-21 opportunities
 - You are your child's best advocate

- Register for **DVRS** (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services)
 - Enables individuals with disabilities to find a job or participate in a day program

- Complete the **Person Centered Planning Tool**
 - Assists in identifying supports and services you and your child may need

<http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/ddd/documents/Documents%20for%20Web/PCPT.pdf>

- **Personal Preference Program**
 - Allows some flexibility with a monthly stipend to select services you need and want (e.g. hire a relative, friend, neighbor, buy equipment, devices or make home modifications)

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dds/projects/ppp/>

- Follow the **TRANSITION TIMELINE** to ensure you and your child are prepared for next year!

Additional Resources

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired 732-255-0723

The Elizabeth Boggs Center on Developmental Disabilities
732-235-9300 <http://rwjms.umdnj.edu/boggscenter>

Mom 2 Mom 1-877-914-6662 www.mom2mom.us.com

Special Child Health Services <http://nj.gov/health/fhs/sch/index.shtml>

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network <http://www.spanadvocacy.org/>