

Andrew M. Cohen, Esq. is a charter member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners and the father of three daughters, one of whom has multiple disabilities. **A significant portion of his practice is devoted to serving the best interests of children and adults with special needs**, especially by assisting parents with the confusing and emotional aspects of creating wills, establishing supplemental needs trusts, and preparing for guardianship proceedings. Mr. Cohen also advises families about the government benefits available for their loved ones and he counsels them on Social Security claims and appeals. **He can help parents legally preserve accumulated assets to provide for all of their children in the future.**

Mr. Cohen has a Master's degree in tax law and a comprehensive understanding of federal and state government benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare, SSI and SSDI. **His knowledge of elder law enables him to provide Medicaid planning services and to assist with the preparation of advanced directives.** It is important that families prepare for legal issues regarding potential medical and financial decisions, as well as for probate and estate administration.

In addition to the primary aspects of his practice, **Mr. Cohen counsels on real estate transactions, estate litigation, and long-term care planning.**

Whether your needs are simple or intricate, the Law Offices of Andrew M. Cohen can help you achieve your objectives through careful legal planning, regardless of the size of your estate. **All clients are provided with high quality, personalized and timely legal services at a reasonable cost.**



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Law Offices of Andrew M. Cohen

A boutique law firm that focuses on:

Special Needs Planning

Trusts & Estates

Elder Law



Helping you protect your loved ones

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Member of New York State Bar Association
- Trusts and Estates Section
- Elder Law Section

United States Federal Court Pro Bono Panel
Social Security/Disability Appeals

Certified Part 36 Guardian Ad Litem and
Supplemental Needs Trustee

Charter Member of the Academy of
Special Needs Planners

2010 Recipient of the Maxwell J. Schleifer
Distinguished Service Award

2017 Recipient of the Susan Weshler Memorial
Award for humanitarian endeavors

Member of the Long Island Board of
Easter Seals New York

Mr. Cohen's vast professional and personal experience has led him to become an author and frequent lecturer on legal planning for families that include individuals with special needs. He speaks at events hosted by New York State Senators, numerous public and private schools, and a multitude of agencies that serve the special needs community. His seminars have been offered to parents and caregivers at organizations such as AHRC, the Town of Hempstead ANCHOR Program, Nassau BOCES, Jewish Community Centers, Parent to Parent of New York State, QSAC, the Queens Council on Developmental Disabilities, and United Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County. Mr. Cohen believes that it is crucial for parents of individuals with special needs to hear this information and to make all of the arrangements necessary to protect and provide for each family member.



For parents of a child with special needs, having wills is not enough to legally and financially protect their family. A comprehensive estate plan must consider the following:

Eligibility for Government Benefits

When planning for a disabled person's financial future, issues of entitlement to government benefits are an inevitable part of the discussion. The law is both complex and extensive with respect to qualifying for and obtaining such benefits. Mr. Cohen can help you understand the differences between Medicaid, Medicare, SSI and SSDI, and assist you in determining if your disabled loved one is entitled to any of these government benefits.

A Supplemental Needs Trust

The most important tool in formulating a plan to care for an individual with special needs is a supplemental needs trust. If properly drafted, the assets that fund the trust provide a comfortable and secure financial future for a disabled person without disqualifying the individual from important government benefits. A Trustee, usually a person similar in age to the disabled individual, manages the trust, or parents might select an institution or organization to provide Trustee services.

Guardianship Proceedings

New York State provides two types of proceedings for circumstances where a guardian, usually a parent, is appointed to manage the personal affairs and/or financial decisions of an incapable individual. One type, 17A, is done through your county's Surrogate Court, and the other type, Article 81, is a more complicated process involving the State Supreme Court. Mr. Cohen is qualified to handle whichever proceeding is right for your family.

The Letter of Intent

This useful part of an estate plan provides basic facts to loved ones about assets and liabilities, as well as personal wishes upon one's death or incapacitation. A typical letter also includes contacts such as doctors, attorneys, accountants, financial advisors, insurance agents and clergy. The location of your wills, trusts, bank statements, proof of citizenship, durable powers of attorney, funeral and burial instructions should be provided, too.

For a family with a special needs child, the letter is an exceptionally useful tool for conveying the unique traits, needs, abilities and desires of your child; it's a virtual user's manual to aid the designee(s) in the future care of this individual, and it represents the best means of communicating your hopes for your child.

