

Affiliated Companies

Mid Atlantic Benefit Strategies, LLC

In this issue we will be discussing Step two of the process; calculate your financial need's, we help you identify the objective and key elements.

The primary objective of special needs strategies is to define the lifestyle sought for the family member. Second is to make sure that resources are available so there isn't undue financial burden on any loved one left behind. Notice I said "any" loved one left behind. It's easy for families who have a loved one with special needs to concentrate on his or her challenges.

We understand this and help our clients to make sure the entire family is included in the financial strategies we help you create. Every family's financial strategy should have six key elements to make it effective. These six elements are identified as follows:

- Lifestyle and retirement strategy
- Risk Management
- Education Funding
- Charitable giving
- Business strategies
- Estate transfer planning

When we work with you to create yours, we focus on the areas you feel are needed. For example: Lifestyle and retirement strategy: we help you prepare for two lifetimes

- Helping see to it that your loved one with special needs has the lifestyle and care you desire.
- Saving enough and managing your portfolio to efficiently work toward your future retirement needs and maintain your lifestyle.

To begin creating your financial strategy, consider how much your loved one's lifestyle will cost. In order to do this, you should account for government benefits he or she is currently receiving or will need to receive in the future. Public benefits are either "Needs Based" or "Entitlement Based" and they are either provided as a "Cash Assistance" or a "Medical Assistance." The benefits received by your loved one with special needs will reduce the amount of resources your family will need to set aside for him or her.

Lastly, as part of your financial strategy, it's important to analyze the information you've gathered, your current situation, and all monthly income, fixed, variable and periodic expenses. Use these numbers to create short, intermediate and long-term goals. Think about the future needs of your entire family, including the needs of your loved one with special needs. This crucial step will help you prioritize where and when you spend your money.

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We have several tools at our disposal and are more than happy to help with this process. Our tools are designed with your needs in mind and can provide a cash flow and savings goal analysis.

Next, consider the cost of caring for your loved one. Parents often take for granted everything they do for their child. To better understand caretaker's responsibilities, walk around the house with a pad and pencil for a few days. Document everything you do for your child. This task list can be helpful when determining the future cost of care.

In the next issue I'll introduce step three of our process – Create your strategy

Remember "A special tomorrow begins today"

Please pass this on to friends and families that you know that may benefit from this and future volumes.

Regards,

Team Members
Pat Rinaudo, Financial Advisor & Mark Rothchild, Registered Representative

Financial Advisors do not provide specific tax/legal advice and this information should not be considered as such. You should always consult your tax/legal advisor regarding your own specific tax/legal situation.

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