

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Is Vocational Rehabilitation available for my child? When do we address this? Do I need to call or does the school arrange this?**

Vocational Rehabilitation should be addressed during the high school years. There are special criteria that need to be met for your child to qualify for these services. Either you or the school can refer your child for evaluation. (See Section 5)

**Can my child go to college or a post-secondary school? What are the available programs after high school?**

Depending on your child's needs, he/she can enroll in Students with Diverse Abilities, Beyond Academics, Caldwell Community College's Compensatory Education Program, or a regular college. There are several universities that offer supports for individuals with disabilities who are degree bound. Some Community Colleges offer certificate programs or adult basic education classes for individuals with disabilities. (See Section 9)

**What is Person-Centered planning?**

Person-centered planning is a process-oriented approach to empower people to receive quality service delivery. It is based on the strengths and interests of an individual and their needs. It puts the person in charge of the direction for their lives, not the system. (See Section 1)

**What interests my child when it comes to a career choice?**

Ask your child what they are interested in. If the child cannot express this, you, as the child's parent or guardian, know your child's interests best. Also, the child's school district should be tracking their post-secondary goals, starting at age 14. This component of the IEP may also be used to assist in career choice

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## **When will my child need to find a physician that will treat him or her as an adult?**

Typically this will happen at the age of 18 but if your child has been diagnosed with a special health care need, it may be 21. Check with your child's pediatrician to be sure. (See Section 11)

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

If you currently provide care for a child or loved one with special health care needs, you need to determine what will happen to them when you are no longer able to provide and care for them. A regular inheritance may prevent them from getting any essential benefits and services including SSI and Medicaid. Losing or limiting their benefits may prevent them from having a richer quality of life. The government has established rules allowing assets to be held in a trust as long as certain requirements are met in a Special Needs Trust. (See Section 7)

## **Why would I need to acquire guardianship for my child?**

If a child, when they turn to adulthood, is unable to provide complete care for themselves including the care of their finances, where they will live, provide their own health care services, be accountable to obey laws, and know when someone is preying on their abilities (sexually or financially), they may need a guardian to supervise and be accountable for their care. The schools recommend that parents to begin this process at age 17. (See Section 7)

## **Why do I need to register my son with Selective Service when I know he cannot serve in the military?**

The law requires all male U.S. citizens to register within 30 days prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday until 30 days after their birthday. There are some exceptions for physically or mentally disabled. (See Section 17)

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## **Why would my child with disabilities not qualify for Social Security benefits?**

As a child they are considered in the scope of their parent's income which may exclude them from qualification. As an adult with special needs (some at age 18 if they are out of school or age 22 if they remain in school), they must be declared by the Social Security Administration a Disabled Adult to qualify for income services. (See Section 6)