

Planning for the Future for Children & Adults with Intellectual &/or Developmental Disabilities

Brian Rubin, Attorney/Parent

Sherri Schneider, QIDP/Parent

Benjamin Rubin, Attorney/Sibling

April 9, 2013

Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 S. Neil Street, Champaign

To Reserve Your Attendance:

RSVP to Janice McAteer at jmcaateer@dsc-illinois.org

Presentation Agenda

Sponsored by Developmental Services Center

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. – *Check In – Registration*

6:00 (**PROMPT**) - 6:05 p.m. - *Welcome and Introductions*

6:05 - 7:20 p.m. - *Government Benefits presented by Sherri Schneider, QIDP & Parent*

... The who, what, where, when, why and how of Government Benefits ... SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, Medicare, DAC, HBWD, Ticket to Work, PASS, and related topics.

7:20 - 8:20 p.m. - *Special Needs Estate Planning presented by Brian Rubin, J.D. & Parent*

... The who, what, where, when, why and how of PUNs, Special Needs Estate Planning including: Types of and appropriate uses of Special Needs Trusts, gifting by grandparents and extended family members, the impact of divorce and child support on government benefits, determining /the appropriate amount to leave, Children's Waiver for children under 18, and many related topics.

8:20 -9:00 p.m.-*Planning for after 18... after 22... presented by Benjamin Rubin, J.D. & Sibling*

... Guardianships & Alternatives, planning for when school years are over ... when the bus stops coming, navigating the maze of Adult Services (In-Home, Residential, Supported Employment, Sheltered Employment, Developmental Training), the impact of the Ligas Class Action Law Suit, and providing guidance, education and information for the "Future Team".

The Presenters

Sherri Schneider: For over thirty years, Sherri Schneider, President of Family Benefit Solutions, Inc., and the mother of a child with some special needs, has been tirelessly dedicated to helping individuals with special needs and their families. Her career began as a social worker in a CILA (Group Home), where she helped those with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses acquire the government benefits they so desperately needed, including SSI, Medicaid and food stamps. She also launched one of the first CLF facilities funded under a Medicaid waiver. As her career flourished, she supervised personnel in Illinois, Missouri and Nevada to assist hospitalized patients apply for and obtain the government benefits for which they appeared eligible, with a strong emphasis on Social Security (Title 2), community and long-term care Medicaid. She now meets with families to thoroughly assess their situations and pursue appropriate benefit assistance programs by personally guiding them through the application process. Due to her vast experience, she has skillfully established and maintained open, productive relationships with government agencies involved in the entire decision-making process. Sherri is a member of the Faculty of The Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education. She is also an Arc of Illinois Board Member. Professionals and families find her seminars to be invaluable as they attempt to navigate the government benefit arena.

Brian Rubin: A practicing attorney since 1976, is the parent of three children, one of whom, Mitchell, has Autism. Brian's law practice, since 1982, when Mitchell was one year old, has been dedicated to serving the legal and future planning needs of his fellow families of children and adults with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and/or mental illness. Brian is the President of The Arc of Illinois; has been a member of the Board of Directors of Clearbrook (serving more than 3,500 individuals with developmental disabilities) since 1989; is a member of the Board of Directors of Pact, Inc. (PAS/ISC Agent for DuPage County, also available to serve as Trustee of Special Needs Trusts, as well as available to serve as Guardian); is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the SLSF, the foundation supporting the Northwest Suburban Special Recreation Association (NWSRA); served as the founding Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of The Special Education District of Lake County (SEDOL Foundation); served on the Board of Directors of KESHET (Jewish Parents of Children with Special Needs); served on the Board of Directors of Northpointe Resources; serves on the Board of Directors of the Special Needs Alliance, the national, non-profit, association of experienced special needs planning attorneys (membership is by invitation only); served on the Special Needs Law Section Steering Committee, of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; was a Charter Member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners; and is a Faculty Member & Text Book Author for the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE). Brian is also the Past Chairman of the State of Illinois Statewide Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities; Co-Chairman of the State of Illinois Autism Task Force since it was established by the Illinois Legislature in 2005; served on the State of Illinois Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General Quality Care Board, Division of Developmental Disabilities Strategic Plan Team; served on the State of Illinois Disabilities Services Advisory Committee (The State of Illinois "Olmstead" Committee); and served on the Division of Developmental Disabilities Quality Committee, among many other State of Illinois Committees and Commissions.

Brian is a former IRS Agent and a former IRS Estate Tax Attorney. Brian served by appointment on the American Bar Association's Sub-Committee on "Special Needs Trusts and Other Protective Vehicles". Brian has served by appointment of the President of the Illinois State Bar Association on that Association's "Section Council" on Estate Planning, Probate and Trust Law. Brian also has served, by appointment, on that Association's "Standing Committee" on the mentally disabled. Brian served three, four year terms, twelve years, as an elected Village Trustee in Buffalo Grove, Illinois (population 45,000) and was the founder of and served as Chairman of the Buffalo Grove Commission for Residents with Disabilities. Brian is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Buffalo Grove and has also served as an Assistant District Governor for Rotary District 6440.

Brian sincerely feels that Mitchell has allowed him, his wife, Linda, as well as "big sister/assistant mom" Nicole and "little/big brother" Benjamin, to better appreciate what is truly important in life... and what is...maybe... not so important. Brian feels the tremendous responsibility of not only being the parent of a child with special needs, but also as an attorney with the knowledge and ability to assist others in special needs future planning...needed to secure the future of children and adults with special needs. While Brian wishes for Mitchell to have a long, healthy and enjoyable life, he often admits that he prays that he lives at least one moment longer than Mitchell... for that ultimately is the "Parent's Prayer"... the desire not to ask anyone else to, or to have anyone else have to "take over" the enormous responsibility of caring for their child with special needs... as only a fellow parent could understand. Brian is a frequent author and lecturer on the topic of appropriate future planning for families of individuals with special needs.

Benjamin (Benji) Rubin: Brian's youngest son, Mitchell's "little/big" brother, graduated from the University of Illinois Law School, Magna Cum Laude, and received his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. Benji is a member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners, an associate member of the Special Needs Alliance, serves as the President of SIBS (Supporting Illinois Brothers and Sisters, the Illinois chapter of the national Sibling Leadership Network - affiliated with the Arc of U.S.), and serves on the Leadership Committee of the Supported Community Living Initiative, a joint venture of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, the Jewish Child and Family Services, and Keshet, regarding residential and day programming for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Having Mitchell as a brother profoundly shaped who Benji is today, and thus the type of law he chose to practice. His personal experiences as a sibling offer a unique perspective into the responsibilities that come with caring for a sibling with special needs. Now, as an adult, those sometimes present and future responsibilities he will share with his older sister regarding his brother's care, are a concern that he shares with all brothers and sisters of individuals with special needs.