

# To Help the Disabled

People with disabilities have special legal needs. Qualifying for certain government benefits can be critical to maintaining their quality of life.

In the past, injured individuals could lose government benefits because they received significant sums of money, either through settling a lawsuit or by receiving an inheritance. Ironically, the financial settlement or inheritance intended to help them actually ended up depriving them of federal Supplemental Security Income for the disabled and Medicaid benefits.

Fortunately, the federal government has provided a means to avoid this conflict, by creating the Special Needs Trust. Lawyers with clients or family members who have disabilities should understand how to use this federal benefit.

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