

SERVICES I PROVIDE...

- Direct assistance in becoming eligible for regional center and other government benefits programs.
- Direct assistance in maximizing the receipt of needed services.
- Advisement to SNT families, attorneys, trustees, and trust administrators regarding public benefits.
- Individualized planning and support.
- Assistance with MediCal eligibility through Institutional Deeming.
- Protection from the improper “invading” of SNT funds.
- Expert testimony.
- Assistance in appeals procedures.



CRITICAL TIMES WHEN MY SERVICES ARE MOST BENEFICIAL

- During legal proceedings (lawsuit).
- During the trust settlement.
- Upon the establishment of a trust.
- At time of beneficiary's transition from:
 - infant to school programs.
 - school to adult programs.
 - home to community residential living.
- Upon the death or incapacitation of parents/primary care givers.

PROVISION OF SERVICES

- Initial meeting.
- Development of Plan of Action.
- Approval of Plan.
- Plan implementation.
- Attendance at regional center meetings.
- On-going monitoring of Plan of Action.
- On-going reporting to family, trust administrator, etc.

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

- 30 years of experience in the field of disabilities.
- 5 years as Senior Rehabilitation Counselor/ California State Department of Rehabilitation.
- 6 years as Associate Dean of Special Education for the San Diego Community College District.

- 7 years as Executive Director, California Community College Foundation.
- 10 years as Executive Director, Alta California Regional Center (Sacramento).
- Expert witness.
- Special Needs Trust Advisor/Advocate.
- Family member a regional center consumer.

EDUCATION

- BA in Psychology
- MA in Rehabilitation Counseling
- MBA

TO MAKE A REFERRAL:

Contact me directly or contact your trust administrator, corporate trustee, or trust advisory committee:

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PROTECTING & Preserving

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST FUNDS

Navigating the Regional Center System and other Public Benefits Programs

JAMES F. HUYCK

Advocate / Consultant

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS...

AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC BENEFITS

Special Needs Trusts (SNT) require that the beneficiary remain eligible for all needs-based public-benefit programs.

In addition, preserving and protecting SNT assets through the receipt of public-benefits for the beneficiary provides a greater likelihood that the trust funds will be sufficient to provide support and assistance to the beneficiary for his/her entire lifetime.

THE REGIONAL CENTER SYSTEM

Many Special Needs Trusts are established as a result of a personal injury settlement or award. Most of the injuries result in a developmental disability such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or other neurologically handicapping conditions.

The key organizations in California, which provide and coordinate services to individuals with developmental disabilities, are the regional centers. As the primary point of contact in the community for individuals with developmental disabilities, the regional centers provide or coordinate an extensive array of services. However, some families find the regional centers difficult and frustrating to navigate, and are not always successful in accessing all of the needed services for their family member with a disability. Most families are not even aware of what services are available from the regional center.

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY LINKAGE TO REGIONAL CENTERS & OTHER GOVERNMENT BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The importance of families and SNT beneficiaries linking to the regional centers and other governmental benefits and services cannot be overstated.

They include:

- Preservation of trust assets.
- Life-long case management.
- Life-long access to needed services to enhance the beneficiary's quality of life.

SERVICES AVAILABLE FROM OR THROUGH THE REGIONAL CENTERS

- Information and referral to other agencies
- Assessment and diagnosis
- Counseling
- Purchase of services included in the individual program plan (IPP)
- Respite care
- Individualized planning and service coordination
- Nursing care
- Day care
- Residential care
- Adult day programs
- Transportation
- Supported and independent living
- Durable medical equipment

THE VALUE OF REGIONAL CENTER & OTHER PUBLIC BENEFITS AND SERVICES

The services available from the regional center or obtained/coordinated from other government programs can be valued at thousands of dollars, which can result in substantial savings to a Special Needs Trust.

While almost all services from the regional center are at no cost to families, the regional centers are required to provide services in the most cost-effective way possible. They must use all other resources, including generic, family or other natural supports before using any regional center funds. Sometimes regional centers will attempt to require that Special Needs Trust funds be expended before the regional center funds a service. However, if properly structured including "payback" provisions, SNTs do not allow the trust to fund services that are available to the general public.