



TRANSITION SERVICES

EDUCATION. EMPLOYMENT. INDEPENDENCE.

2024-2025

Financial & Legal Supports and Services



**COMMUNITY RESOURCE
GUIDE**



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Transfer of Rights and Guardianship Guide

This guide provides information about the various ways families can work with their students to support them after they turn 18. There are also many resources for applying for guardianship. Many of the providers in this section can assist with guardianship.

SSI and Benefits Navigator Guide

SSI and SSDI benefits can provide individuals and their families with needed funds. This guide provides information about Supplemental Security Information and the Benefits Navigator program that can help families manage the funds.

Financial & Legal Supports and Services

Pages 8-11

Organizations that provide financial planning, support, and services as well as organizations that can assist with legal support and services for individuals with disabilities.

Resources found within the Cobb County School District Special Education Community Resource Guide are for informational purposes only. The resources contained here are not associated with, affiliated with or sponsored by the Cobb County School District. CCSD makes no recommendations about the validity or usefulness of any agencies listed herein.

The resources contained in the Community Resource Guide may change after publication. Please contact the resources for the most up to date information on services provided.

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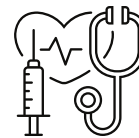
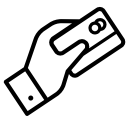
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Transfer of Rights

In Georgia, when a person turns 18, they are considered a legal adult. Adults have the right to: vote, marry, obtain a credit card, consent to medical treatments, make living arrangements, sign contracts, and more.

If a person will need support in their life decisions or financial management, there are several options available for families.



Options for Support:

Guardianship: *In order to be appointed an adult's guardian, you must petition the court. The Probate Court may then appoint a guardian to make decisions regarding the person's health or safety.*

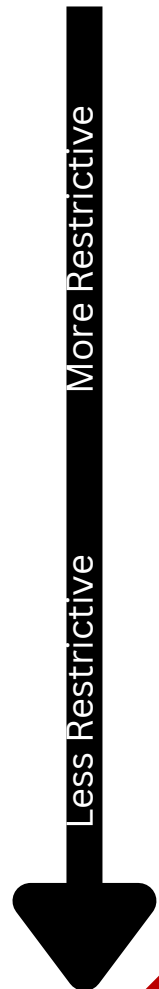
Conservatorship: *In order to be appointed an adult's conservator, you must petition the court. The Probate Court may then appoint a conservator to make financial decisions for the person.*

Power of Attorney: The person signs a legal document that designates others to make some or all of their decisions, on their behalf, in certain circumstances.

Supported Decision Making: The person makes their own decisions, but they have a network of people they have chosen to help them make those decisions.

More Restrictive

Less Restrictive





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Guardianship, Conservatorship, Power of Attorney, and Supported Decision Making



QR Code

To access an electronic version of this document, scan the QR code below.



Videos

- [Guardianship vs. Conservatorship-English](#)
- [Guardianship vs. Conservatorship-Spanish](#)
- [Guardianship vs. Power of Attorney--English Only](#)
- [Kim Martin, Special Needs Law, YouTube Channel](#)

If you would like to connect with the Transition Resource Specialist that supports your school, please consult the Locations list on the Transition Services website:
<https://www.cobbk12.org/page/38587/special-education-transition-services>



Websites

- [Cobb County Government: Estates, Guardianship, Conservatorship Webpage](#)
- [Parent to Parent of Georgia](#)
 - P2P Roadmap
 - P2P Financial & Legal Planning
 - Guardianship Myths--English
 - Guardianship Myths--Spanish
 - Future Decisions--English
 - Future Decisions--Spanish



Forms

- [Petition for the Appointment of a Guardian and/or Conservator for a Proposed Ward](#)
- [Power of Attorney-Education Decision Making](#)
- [General Power of Attorney \(Financial\)](#)
 - [Directions](#)
- [Georgia Advanced Directive for Healthcare](#)
 - [Directions](#)



Flyers

Probate Clinic Flyers--Free 30 minute meeting with an attorney!

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)



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Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a benefits program that provides monthly payments to children and adults with disabilities and limited or no resources.

How Do I Apply?



Call 1-800-772-1213 for an appointment.



Visit Cobb County Social Security Administration Office



Apply at www.ssa.gov/apply/ssi

Eligibility Requirements

- The adult must have a physical or mental disability that:
 - Is severe and creates functional limitations.
 - Prevents gainful employment.
 - Has lasted for more than 12 months and is expected to continue.
- Adult income is limited to less than \$1500. .

Frequently Asked Questions

- **How long does the process take?**
 - Depending on the need for appeals, the process can take anywhere from three months to two years.
- **What kind of documentation do I need?**
 - If you make an appointment or apply online, you will receive a list of documents.
 - The list may include: social security card, birth certificate, bank statements, medical report or eligibility report, your child's IEP, and lists of people who work with your child.



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Benefits Navigation

Benefits Navigators are free and helpful to families to make sure benefits aren't lost.

What is the Benefits Navigator Program?

- The Benefits Navigator Program helps individuals and families understand how earned income will impact SSI benefits (and other State and Federal benefits).
- Benefits Navigators can help determine how to maximize earnings and keep benefits.

Who is the Benefits Navigator for Cobb County?



Bobby Dodd Institute
2120 Marietta Blvd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
679-365-0071

Questions a Benefits Navigator Can Answer

- How much can someone make before losing their SSI payment?
- How will savings/working affect the SSI payment?
- What work incentives are available?
- If my child has SSI, what should I expect when they turn 18?
- Who do I contact if I think the SSI amount is not correct?
- Who do I contact if I need to update information for SSI?



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<https://www.cobbk12.org/page/38587/special-education-transition-services>*

Financial & Legal Supports and Services



The **Amari Firm** can assist families with the drafting of wills and trusts, long-term care and special needs planning, obtaining Medicaid benefits, and guardianships and conservatorships.

3535 Roswell Road, Suite 18
Marietta, GA 30062
678-609-3230
<https://elderlawatlanta.com>

The **Bowden Law Firms** specializes in estate planning for families whose loved ones have special needs.

191 Peachtree St., NE, #2525
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-941-1370
<https://bowdenlaw.com/>

Burgess& Christensen's legal team specializes in social security disability, guardianship, and special needs trusts.

540 Powder Springs Street Building A, Suite 1
Marietta, GA 30064
770-422-0013
<https://www.disabilityhelpline.com/>

Cobb County Probate Court's primary function is to ensure that estates and guardianships are administered in accordance with the law. The Probate Court has jurisdiction over the appointment and supervision of guardians and conservators of adults with significant disabilities.

32 Waddell Street
Marietta, GA 30090
770-528-1900
<https://www.cobbcounty.org/courts/probate-court>

Financial & Legal Supports and Services



The **Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)** provides treatment and support services to people with behavioral health challenges and addictive diseases. They also assist individuals who live with developmental disabilities. The agency's mission is to provide high-quality health care opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities or behavioral health challenges close to their homes, so they can live a life of independence and recovery and create a sustainable, self-sufficient, and resilient life in their community. This is the agency that administers the Medicaid NOW and Comp waivers.

1230 Bald Ridge Marina Road Suite 800
Cumming, GA 30041
Phone – 678-947-2818
Toll Free – 1-877-217-4462
www.dbhdd.georgia.gov

The **Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH)** administers several Waiver programs designed to help people who are elderly or have disabilities and need help to live in their home or community instead of a hospital or nursing home. Each program offers several “core” services. Within DCH, Community Care Services Program (CCSP) is a Medicaid waiver program that provides a range of community-based services to assist individuals who are physically disabled. Participants must meet the same medical, functional, and financial eligibility criteria as for placement in a nursing facility under Medicaid and be approved by a physician.

2 Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-656-4507
www.medicaid.georgia.gov

Harrison & Held, LLP integrates traditional estate planning tools with the use of discretionary and special needs trusts, letters of intent and future-care planning. The attorneys have knowledge and expertise in trust and estate law, trust income tax issues and guardianship. They also work with family law attorneys when parents of a child with special needs divorce.

404-566-4307
www.harrisonheld.com

Law Office of Miller & Chaet specializes in special needs planning/trusts.

11800 AmberPark Dr., Suite 130
Alpharetta, GA 30009
678-746-2900
<https://www.northfultonwills.com/>

Financial & Legal Supports and Services



Mass Mutual Financial Group specializes in estate planning tools, including wills, powers of attorney, and life insurance trusts for people with special needs.

Taylor, Yeganegi & Associates Financial Services
Satellite Office
1301 Shiloh Rd., Bldg. 800 S830
Kennesaw, GA 30144
678-302-2721

<https://financialprofessionals.massmutual.com/us/ga/kennesaw/taylor-yeganegi-associates-financial-services>

Nadler Biernath LLC specializes in special needs trust, guardianship/conservatorship, and Medicaid planning.

4360 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA
770-455-0535

<https://nadlerbiernath.com/>

The **Pollan Law Firm** specializes in Medicaid eligibility, creating a special-needs trust, guardianship/ conservatorship, and divorce and disability.

1801 Peachtree Street NE Suite 125
Atlanta, GA 30309
678-510-1358

<https://www.pollanlawfirm.com/>

Selective Service System mandates all male U.S.citizens, regardless of where they live, and male immigrants, whether documented or undocumented, residing in the United States, and who are 18 through 25, register with Selective Service. The law states men must register with Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. That means men are required to register with Selective Service sometime during the 30 days before their 18th birthday, their 18th birthday, and the following 29 days after their 18th birthday– that is a 60-day registration period. Men who do not register with Selective Service within the 60-day window are technically in violation of the law and should register as soon as possible. This is required regardless of disability.

<https://www.sss.gov/>



Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs are federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. Both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who additionally meet specified criteria may qualify for benefits under either program. SSI is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes). SSI pays benefits to disabled adults and children with limited income to provide for basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. Prior to the age of 18, SSI pays benefits based on financial need. From the age of 18, developmentally disabled adults qualify based on limited income.

1415 Franklin Road
Marietta, GA 30067
1-800-772-1213
www.ssa.gov

State of Georgia Able Account (STABLE) is an investment account available to eligible individuals with disabilities. STABLE Accounts allow individuals with disabilities to save and invest money without losing eligibility for certain public benefits programs, like Medicaid, SSI, or SSDI. Earnings in STABLE Accounts are not subject to federal income tax, so long as they are spent on “Qualified Disability Expenses.”

<https://www.georgiastable.com/>