



FALLING OFF THE DISABILITY CLIFF

Disability Life Planning by Michele A. Leahy, MS, CPWIC

You've dedicated hours of your life to evaluations, therapy sessions, and IEP meetings to help your loved one with a disability succeed. The school services are coming to an end, and you will no longer be writing IEP mission statements at the beginning of every school year. What do you want life to look like for your loved one with a disability in 10 or 20 years? What about after you're gone? What government services and programs are available to your loved one with a disability, and how can you connect them to both your goals as a family as well as the goals of your loved one with a disability. Do you know what benefits your person with a disability is entitled to versus what they are eligible for? Do you know the difference between SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, and Medicare? Have you started planning financially for how your loved one will live when you can no longer provide for them financially? Is it possible to find your loved one work without compromising their much-needed government benefits?

"Michele makes such a difference in advising individuals and families enabling them to have a productive and high quality life and a future that makes sense."

Michele A. Leahy, the founder and CEO of Leahy Life Plan, connects all of the dots of disability life planning for her families. Michele coordinates with financial advisors, special needs estate attorneys, special education professionals, governmental and community agencies, and – most importantly – individuals with disabilities and their families. After establishing attainable goals with the person with a disability and their family, Michele bridges the gap between the various groups and agencies in order to help them reach their goals.

"Michele is a dedicated professional and a compassionate advocate for those with special needs."

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