



A Free Guide For Parents of Special Needs Children

The 6 Most Important Documents You Will Ever Need!

Hi, I am Chitra Iyer, a Special Needs Parent myself and a Trustee at Forum for Autism. My 22 year old son Shravan has Autism, Epilepsy and Cerebral Palsy. I am also a Financial Coach and the CEO at MFA, a 15-year-old organization that specializes in Goal-based Investing. We help families make smart, informed choices and decisions about money. Having worked with hundreds of Special Needs Families and been a part of their struggles, we at MFA decided to have a dedicated practice for Parents with Special Needs Children.

Using our Flagship Happyness Roadmap, many families have planned a legally and financially secure future for their child. With this guide, you too have taken the first step in the best direction. Do read on to understand the most important documents you need for your Special Needs Child!



Our Future Planning Solution for Special Needs Families has 3 key components:



Getting the 6 most important documents in place



Defining life goals for your Special Needs Child, yourself and your other children



Goal-based investing to ensure that all these goals are met

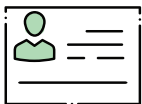
The 6 Most Important Documents You Will Ever Need!

This is the first step to know exactly which documents are essential, the legal actions needed to protect your Child and the correct steps to secure your Child's financial future!

Without these: You will always wonder if your Child's future is secure and whether you will be able to protect him/her legally and financially, especially when you are no longer around.

With these: Not only will you ensure that he/she will be well cared for, but you will be at ease and enjoy life with your Child.

It is important to have all these 6 documents in place at the earliest, so that, you can be sure that your Child is at no risk under any circumstance.



1. UDID CARD: UNIQUE DISABILITY IDENTITY CARD

What is it? - A Unique ID (UDID) card is for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). It is also called Swavlamban Card. This is a single document of identification and verification of your Special Needs Child, to avail various benefits in the future.

This card ensures:

- That your Child is registered in the Centralized National Database as a Person with Disabilities.

- Non-duplication of his/her PwDs data.
- That the card includes all necessary details about a disabled person and bypasses the need to carry multiple documents .
- That PwDs can avail of schemes and benefits provided by the Government through its various Ministries and their Departments. This card is valid all over India.

How to apply for it? – Online Application.

Apply Now: <http://www.swavlambancard.gov.in/pwd/application>



2. LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP CERTIFICATE

What is it? - All parents are legal guardians of their Child till the Child attains 18 years of age. After that parents are no longer legal guardians. Persons with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities are in a special situation, because, when they attain 18 years of age, they are not always capable of managing their own lives or taking legal decisions for their own benefit.

In such a situation, it is important as parents to appoint yourselves as Legal Guardians. You can also decide who will be the Legal Guardian after your death and take legal decisions on your behalf for your Child and his/her property, in your absence.

How to Apply? - To register a Legal Guardian for your Child, you will have to fill an Online Application on the National Trust website:

<https://www.thenationaltrust.gov.in/content/innerpage/guardianship.php>



3. LETTER OF INTENT: (LOI)

What is it? - It is one of the most valuable documents you can prepare for your Legal Guardian. It is not a formal legal document. An LOI outlines, in detail, the people, places and services your Child requires and receives. It is a guide for future caregivers to make the most appropriate life decisions, to help fulfill fiduciary responsibilities for your Child.

An LOI should list your Child's likes, dislikes, family members, friends, 1st circle of connect, 2nd circle of connect, persons whom you trust and persons who are caregivers for your Child in your absence.

The Legal Guardian/Trustee should be aware of your Letter of Intent, which you should discuss and explain to him/her regularly.



4. WILL

What is it? – A Will is a legal document which is necessary to transition assets to the next owner. It is important that parents make a Will early in life to protect their Child.

How to make a Will? – A simple hand written Will is good. It is advisable to make individual Wills for both Parents.

You should be aware of the three important parties in a Will.

- **Testator:** You and your Spouse.
- **Executor:** The person you choose to carry out directions contained in the Will.
- **Beneficiary:** Your Child/Child's Trust and others to whom you wish to leave your assets.

The Will should be witnessed by two people, one of these should be a doctor. You can keep the Will in a Locker, with a Trustworthy Person or in any easily accessible place.



5. TRUST

What is it? – A Special Needs Trust is a secure mechanism to protect your Child against financial abuse. It lets you or any other interested party contribute funds for the benefit of your Special Needs Child. These funds can be utilized for his/her residential, medical, therapy, leisure and any other required expenses.

How is a Trust formed? – A Trust is formed with the help of a Lawyer. Below are the four parties required to be present:

- **Settlers:** This will usually be YOU, as you are the one to make decisions and contribute funds for the benefit of your Child.
- **Beneficiary:** Your Special Needs Child, for whose benefit funds will be utilized.
- **Trustees:** These are trustworthy people whom you appoint, to safeguard the funds in the Trust.
- **Board of Advisors:** These people are instrumental in taking key decisions for your Child but may not be available to take on legal responsibility. They can serve as advisors.



6. A FINANCIAL ROADMAP

What is it? – It is essential to create a Financial Roadmap so that your Special Needs Child and your family are cared for. This document alone can make you feel financially secure and ensure that your Child has the required finances during his/her lifetime. This Roadmap is created for two generations, yours and your Child's.

How to make a Financial Roadmap?

This process involves:

- Defining the Goals for your Special Needs Child and your family.
- Reviewing your Existing Investments and Cashflow.
- Understanding the Risks faced by your family.
- Estimating the corpus required for your Goals.
- Making the right investments to achieve this Corpus.

We will review this Financial Roadmap with you annually.

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS GUIDE!



With this Guide you have a tool to secure your Special Needs Child's Future. Just knowing this is not enough. As Parents you need help and guidance to get all of this in place. Wouldn't it be extremely supportive if you had somebody to guide and handhold you through this legal and financial process?

We are offering you a **30 Minute Future Planning Session** free of cost, so that you never have to worry about your Special Needs Child. Chitra Iyer, who has been in your shoes and has walked down the same path, has set up an extraordinary process for this. Her team is very capable and happy to coach you through this session.

You will benefit from a step - by - step actionable plan to organize these 6 important documents for your Child, covering all your financial and legal requirements.

When is the best time to do this? RIGHT NOW! Do take immediate action and have a chat with us.

Book My Future Planning Session