Future Planning

Letter of Intent

No one lives forever, not even parents of children with disabilities. Fears about what will happen to your child after you’re gone keep you from doing the very thing that will give you peace of mind: Planning. You fear that your child’s quality of life may not be the same as they have now. You also know that it should not be left totally up to their sister or brother to care for them. Sometimes the thought of all of this is so overwhelming that you don’t even know where to start.

This section is that starting place. It can be a way to facilitate discussion among your family members or just a way to begin organizing your own thoughts and getting them down on paper. You can begin with the less emotional section like the Personal Information before moving on to the more difficult task of choosing a Guardian. Guardianship guidelines vary from state to state. Your attorney can advise you, but not all attorneys are familiar with Special Needs Trusts. Obtain a list of attorneys who specialize in this area. Update the plan annually; birthdays are a good time to do this. Don’t forget to make copies and give them to all those who should know about your wishes. Planning is a process that takes time, but once you have things decided you will be able to breathe that sigh of relief knowing you no longer have to worry about the future.