

## Information on:

# Wills and Trusts

If you have a disabled child or family member who is unable to handle their own financial and legal affairs, you may need to make special plans in your Will to protect their assets and ensure entitlement to benefits are preserved. You may choose to set up a trust in a Will. This aims to protect the disabled person's interests in the future after the parents have died.

Including a Trust in your Will can ensure that you protect the benefit entitlement of your family member, and thereby guarantee continuity and security of care. The way any trust is structured may mean the difference between seeing all of the assets devoured by the relevant local authority within a few years, or making a long lasting difference to the quality of life of the beneficiary. Including a Trust in your Will can ensure that you make provision for "extras" that you want your family member to have. These can include things like holidays, and particular equipment to enhance someone's quality of life.

### Further information from:

- **CONTACT A FAMILY**, Preparing for Adult Life Guide  
[www.cafamily.org.uk](http://www.cafamily.org.uk) - Helpline 0808 808 3555 - e-mail: [helpline@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cafamily.org.uk)
- **MENCAP**, The wills and trusts team  
Telephone: 020 7696 6925 - email: [willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk](mailto:willsandtrusts@mencap.org.uk)  
The Mencap Trust Company is a reputable non-profit organisation aligned to Mencap, the learning disability charity. The company will act as managers/trustees for beneficiaries where there are no suitable trustees. Mencap also have advice on setting up family trusts:  
  
[http://www.mencap.org.uk/html/legacies/mencap\\_trust\\_company.asp](http://www.mencap.org.uk/html/legacies/mencap_trust_company.asp)
- **SENSE**, Trusts and Wills, Factsheets on website:  
[www.sense.org.uk](http://www.sense.org.uk) - e-mail: [legacy@sense.org.uk](mailto:legacy@sense.org.uk) - Phone:0207 014 9337
- **Office of Public Guardian**  
For information on powers of attorney, deputies and making decisions for people who are unable to make decisions for themselves visit the Office of Public Guardian:  
[www.publicguardian.gov.uk](http://www.publicguardian.gov.uk)

Further information on trusts, specialist solicitors and accountants:

**The Law Society:** [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

**STEP** (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners): [www.step.org](http://www.step.org)

