

ABLE Accounts for Family Members with Special Needs

Having loved ones with special needs requires specialized planning to achieve the following important outcomes:

- ❖ Making sure they always qualify for government support services
- ❖ Answering the question, "What happens when I'm gone?"
- ❖ Maximizing your resources, regardless of your economic status

One of the more essential planning tools for an individual with special needs is an ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account. In 2014, Congress authorized eligible individuals with disabilities to have a savings account which grows tax-deferred and can be spent tax-free on eligible expenses (just like 529 college savings plans). Eligibility involves the disability beginning before age 26 (this will change to 46 in 2026). Those already receiving SSI or SSDI automatically qualify; additional documentation is required if not. Additional details are at www.ablenrc.org.

Eligible individuals can deposit up to \$17,000 per year into an ABLE account and still qualify for government support services through Medicaid. If they work, they can deposit an additional \$13,590 per year. Individuals can only have one ABLE account, and the total amount in it cannot exceed \$100,000. So while it should not be the sole planning tool to provide for a lifetime, it is one very critical component.

In addition to growing tax-deferred, ABLE account assets can be spent tax-free on expenses such as:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Education❖ Housing❖ Transportation❖ Employment training and support❖ Assistive technology❖ Health❖ Prevention and wellness | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Financial management services❖ Legal fees❖ Expenses for ABLE account oversight❖ Funeral and burial❖ Basic living expenses |
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Please feel welcome to contact us for assistance with your special needs planning!



Helping you provide quality of life and a lifetime of care

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