

Newsflash

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Oregon Business Magazine Award Winner
for best medium-sized nonprofit
to work for in the state!
2010, 2011 & 2012
and
Alfred P. Sloan Award Winner 2011 & 2012

My Life Wishes

by Jeannie Kinley, Full Access Board of Directors Vice President

Some years back, an article appeared in newspapers reporting that the mother of an adult with a developmental disability had succeeded in a long-term project of establishing her son in independent living, settling him successfully in a small house with two roommates who also had Downs Syndrome. The reporter congratulated this mother, saying, “Well, now you’ll be able to travel and do more for yourself.” She replied: “You don’t get it: now I’ll be able to die in peace.” The point of the story is clear to parents of disabled adults, parents who worry about what will happen to their child when they are gone or can no longer provide care and oversight.

Some parents respond by enlisting relatives, perhaps siblings, to take on this role; others respond by assuming the agencies will step in, and cover what needs to be done. In either case, the transition will be assisted by financial planning and the storing of pertinent information by the parents. The agencies are limited not only in their resources, but in their knowledge of the likes, dislikes, and daily needs of such individuals, and the same is often true of other relatives, who may not realize the scope of care that is needed and has been provided by the parents. To ensure a smooth transition, subsequent caregivers, case managers, and guardians will need to know details of the individual’s diagnosis and medical history, current medications and dosage requirements, diet, activities, and daily care needs, as well as the wishes of the individual—and the parents—about where the person will reside and what level of care will be needed to make this work. Details of financial planning, including provision of a special needs trust, should also be communicated.

“My Life Wishes” is a document intended to help families record current, pertinent information in many different categories. The document is intended simply as a guide or road map to families seeking to leave a full record of essential information. Families should feel free to change organization, headings, and categories to suit their particular vision. Both electronic and paper versions of “My Life Wishes” are available from Full Access. This document—in its most recent form, given annual updates and additions—can be kept on file by the personal agent, but can also be given to key family members and trust administrators, and should be appended to the parents’ will or living trust as a letter of intent.

Families can start the process at a comfortable pace, beginning with the details which come most easily to mind, and perhaps addressing more complex and longer range planning over a period of several years, in subsequent updates to the document. It is good practice to make necessary changes to the document prior to yearly ISP meetings to keep the record current. For the full text of this article please go to: <http://fullaccessblog.wordpress.com/2013/04/24/what-to-do-with-end-of-life-transitions/>.

Happy Birthday to:



Alan P
Alexander G

Amber B
Amy M



Ann M
Anna C

Anthony B



Aram W
Ashley C
Ashley P

Corey C
Dale R

Debbie M
Dee E

Elizabeth C

Ellna T
Erin C

Evica M
Gary H
Gib D

Jared M
Jeanette S

Jeffrey J
Jesse D

Jessica P

Joi L
Jonathan G

Jonathan K
Josh F
Julie S

Kelly S
Kenneth W

Megan B
Melinda S

Mellissa J
Michael D

Panna R
Ryan C
Ryan S
Sandra K

Sarah S
Scott B

Scott W
Shawn G

Sumer T
Tiffany B

Tiffany C
Tim N
Tina C
Wayne N



And to anyone we may have missed!!

Full Access

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