

7 Rules for Getting Your Special Needs Child What They Need

Advocating for your child with special needs can be exhausting and time consuming. To help guide you, and maybe reduce your frustration, here are 7 rules keep in mind.



Rule #1 - Expect "No"

Agencies are programmed to say no. Their default is no - so you need to explain to them why they should say yes and help you out when you need it. It's a battle and you should expect to appeal any decision that's made and fight until you get what your child is entitled to.



Rule #2 - Expect Someone New

Don't go into any government agency expecting to talk to the same person twice - because it simply won't happen. You'll be directed to a new person, who won't know anything about you or your child. Which brings us to the third rule...



Rule #3 - Expect to Explain it Again

Be prepared to start your story from scratch every time you meet or talk to somebody new. Even if they're there to help you and your child, they probably won't know anything about you. You'll end up meeting so many new faces along your journey through government agencies and you'll have to explain everything to them every single time.



Rule #4 - Write it Down

If you're on a call or in a meeting with a caseworker, a manager or anybody important to your child's future wellbeing, be sure to take notes during every conversation. You should always write down:

- Their name
- Call back number
- ID number
- Date and time of the call

It will help future meetings go a lot more smoothly if you make sure that any information you get can be traced back to its source.



Rule #5 - Find the Federal and State Components

Most state agencies have a federal agency component and most federal agencies have a state agency component. It's important to remember this because even if you've resolved an issue on a federal level doesn't mean that your issue will be resolved on a state level as well. Be sure to tick all your boxes and cover any loopholes to avoid frustration down the line.

Every agency will be different, meaning varying criteria for granting benefits. Don't presume that because one agency ruled in your favor that the next one will as well. It's a constant battle - but even if they say no, you have to keep fighting to get the benefits you and your child deserve.



Rule #6 - Use the Restroom First

When you call an agency or a caseworker, it's a good idea to use the restroom before you begin and cancel any other upcoming plans you may have. You're going to be on the phone for a long time and most of it will be on hold. So make sure you're fully prepared for a long wait time.



Rule #7 - When Your Child Turns 18 You Start All Over Again

Unfortunately, you read that right. When your child turns 18 he/she is a legal adult and eligibility rules for all the resources you worked so hard to secure change. Meaning, you must reapply for everything.

At The Chubb Law Firm, our approach to special needs planning is grounded persistence. Although this process will be difficult, we are here to help you make the best decisions for you and your child.

If you need help, call The Chubb Law Firm today at (916) 241-9661 to review your goals and discuss your options.