



Stetson 2024 National Conference- Breakout Session #3 Divorce and SNTs

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OVERVIEW

- Divorce remains a prevalent part of our society
- Divorce rate trends between couples with a child with special needs tend to be higher because of increased logistical consideration and matters to resolve which can further complicate the relationship
- Impact on the “marital” like relationship
- Differences in parenting style/decisions impacting child
- Who does X v. Y? Doctor appointments, school meetings, therapy, care for other children
- Employment of Parent/Financial considerations



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Overview Continued...

- Advocacy for child
- Knowledge of and learning to navigate public benefits/health insurance
- Burn out
- Foundation of relationship and discussions on topics-disagreement
- Legal issues- involvement of Counsel
- Mental Health and Personal Well-being of parents/caregivers



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Resources and Professionals

- It DOES take a village and that's OK
- How to deal with situations...
- Background of parent- education/employment
- Coordination of Doctors, Legal Counsel, Public Benefits Specialist, Care Coordination Specialist, Life Care Planner, Accountant, Financial Advisor, Therapist and Family Members/Relative
- Life Care Plan- Tool for families/providers
- Letter of Instruction



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Settling a Divorce and Practice Points

- Child Support- Generally and when there is a child with special needs involved
- Calculation of the Support Obligations- Duration, Method of Payment and Payee (SNT?)
- Change of Circumstances
- Life Insurance Policies
- Custody Considerations- Physical v. Legal Custody
 - Joint Custody and associated issues
- Home Environment/Equipment/Education/IEPs



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Transition to Adulthood

- Parenting does not stop at 18- especially if there is a child with a disability
- Income/Insurance- Rep Payee and Responsible Party
- Education Continuation and Beyond
- Guardianship/Conservatorship v. Estate Planning (Powers of Attorney)
- HIPPA Authorization
- Succession for Protective Arrangement
- Estate Planning for Parents



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Estate Planning for Parents

- Contemporaneous to Settlement of Divorce- ensure consistency and completion
- 1st v. 3rd Party Education of Counsel/Families
- Change of Beneficiaries on Accounts- Non-probate Assets
- Inventory of Assets
- Titling of Accounts/Assets
- Logistics of new relationships/kids
- Life Insurance- Term v. Whole Life

