

Important Contact Information:

Medicaid eligibility can become complicated when a Trust is used to qualify for Medicaid. As a trustee, you will need to be in contact with many different people. Please write down the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the following people:

Medicaid Caseworker:

Caseworker Phone Number:

Caseworker E-mail Address:

Attorney who wrote the trust:

Phone number and email address:

Bank for the Trust Account:

Trust Bank Account Number:

Bank Phone Number:

Care Coordinator (for Home and Community Based Waiver Services)

Care Coordinator Phone Number:

Care Coordinator E-mail Address:

Keep this pamphlet for future reference

**Division of Public Assistance (DPA)
Contacts**

Specialized Medicaid Programs—Home and Community Based Waiver Medicaid, Nursing Home Medicaid, and TEFRA Medicaid Contacts:

- Coastal Field Office Specialized Medicaid Office (for Southcentral, Northwestern, Southwestern, and Southeastern Alaska): (907) 269-8950 or 1-800-478-4364 or 1-800-478-4372
- Fairbanks Public Assistance Office: (907) 451-2850 or 1-800-478-2850

Medicaid for the Disabled, Blind, or Elderly:

- Anchorage Adult Public Assistance Office: (907) 269-6000
- Mat-Su Adult Public Assistance: (907) 376-3903 or 1-800-478-7778
- Coastal Adult Public Assistance Office (for Northwestern, Southwestern, and the Kenai Peninsula): (907) 269-8950 or 1-800-478-4372
- Fairbanks Adult Public Assistance Office: (907) 451-2850 or 1-800-478-2850
- Southeast Adult Public Assistance Office: (907) 465-3537 or 1-800-478-3537

General Trust Questions:

- General Trust Questions may be directed to the DPA Long Term Care Coordinator at (907) 269-7880

**State of Alaska
Dept. of Health & Social Services
Division of Public Assistance
P.O. Box 110640
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0640
(907) 465-3347**

**Trustee
Information**



Sean Parnell, Governor, State of Alaska
William H. Hogan, Commissioner
Dept. of Health & Social Services
www.hss.state.ak.us

Trusts and Medicaid: When and How

There are three types of Trusts that may be used to assist people to qualify for Medicaid:

- Qualifying Income Trust (QIT), often referred to as a “Miller Trust”;
- Special Needs Trust (SNT); and
- Pooled Trust.

Qualifying Income Trusts:

A Qualifying Income Trust is used when an individual is over income for Medicaid. While Qualifying Income Trusts can be used to access any Medicaid category, they are mostly used to access Medicaid for the blind, disabled, or elderly who are facing high cost, long term health care needs.

Special Needs and Pooled Trusts:

Special Needs and Pooled Trusts are restricted to blind or disabled individuals, who have resources over the Medicaid \$2,000 resource limit. Special Needs and Pooled Trusts must contain the assets of only the Medicaid recipient, but may also have the recipients income deposited into the trust.

Special Needs Trust's are restricted to a disabled individual under age 65.

Pooled Trusts are for a disabled individual of any age and must be established and managed by a non-profit agency.

***All trusts must be irrevocable ***

Now That I Am a Trustee What Do I Need to Do?

By becoming a trustee for a Medicaid Trust you are taking on the financial responsibility for someone who, in most instances, has high medical needs and is often vulnerable. As a trustee you can ensure the individual continues Medicaid coverage by following the steps below:

1. Get a full and complete copy of the trust document and read it very carefully. Write down any questions you may have and then contact the attorney who wrote the trust for any needed clarifications.
2. Find out and contact the individual's Medicaid caseworker. Give the Medicaid caseworker your contact information and always keep the caseworker's contact information on hand. The Medicaid caseworker is responsible for determining continuing Medicaid eligibility, so building this relationship is very important.
3. Keep track of all financial obligations of the Medicaid recipient, this includes any cost-of-care obligations for Nursing Home Medicaid and Home and Community Based Waiver Services. Failure to follow through with these financial obligations can jeopardize the individual's continued Medicaid eligibility .
4. Keep copies of all bank statements and keep an accounting of the use of all trust funds.

Important Trustee Q and A's

Can money placed into a trust be spent and how can it be spent?

- For a Special Needs and Pooled Trust, all money must be used for the sole benefit of the blind or disabled individual.
- For a Qualifying Income Trust, the Medicaid recipient is allowed to keep a Personal Needs Allowance. Most Medicaid recipients with a Qualifying Income Trust also have a cost-of-care obligation. The trustee is responsible for paying the cost-of-care obligation from the trust. The Medicaid caseworker will notify the Medicaid recipient of his or her cost-of-care obligation and, the allowed Personal Needs Allowance.
- Payments from the trust that are used for food or shelter could adversely affect the individual's eligibility or the amount of their cost-of-care obligation.

Will use of Trust funds be reviewed?

- Yes, each year the DPA caseworker will request to review current bank statements. Additional documentation may be requested if there are any discrepancies.

What if I cannot fulfill my trustee obligations?

If you decide you can no longer act as a trustee for any reason, it is important to:

- Report the change to the Medicaid caseworker and give a copy of the Successor Trustee Appointment document.
- Contact the bank and ensure the new trustee can take over all financial obligations.