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Lifetime trusts for special adults

By RANDI WEINER
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THE JOURNAL NEWS
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Parents who have spent their adult lives taking care of a special-needs child know their children still need support after the parents die.

A free workshop at the end of the month is designed to help them create that support so there are no surprises.

"It's for parents to be able to control who's going to be providing the care for that child, who's going to be managing the funds for that child. At least they can hand-choose who is going to be able to do all these things in their place," said Ellyn S. Kravitz, a partner with Littman Krooks LLP, a law firm that specializes in special-needs planning, elder law, long-term care, trusts and estates.

"If their child has special needs and they have to apply for any government entitlements," Kravitz said, "any bequest in a will or a trust can affect their present and future benefits."

Kravitz is one of three speakers who will talk about estate planning, wills, trusts and letters of intent for parents with special-needs children from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 29 at the Palisades Center as part of a series of workshops sponsored by the Parent Support Network. The network is a grassroots organization that advocates and provides support and education for parents of special-needs children.

The other speakers will be attorneys Adrienne Arkontaky, also with Littman Krooks, and Stephen A. Ehrens, a certified public accountant and financial representative for Northwest Mutual Financial Network in Fairfield, Conn.

Kravitz and Arkontaky will speak about estate planning, designing a future care plan, choosing a guardian, evaluating expenses and services, composing a letter of intent and establishing a special-needs trust. Ehrens will talk about the best way to fund a special-needs trust with insurance and investment funds, to evaluate a family's resources and to assess a child's needs and costs for a lifetime.

If you go

What: A workshop for parents, guardians and adult siblings of special-needs individuals, "What Every Parent Should Know About Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning"

When: 7:30 to 9 p.m. Nov. 29

Where: Raso Room, fourth floor, Palisades Center, West Nyack

Cost: Free

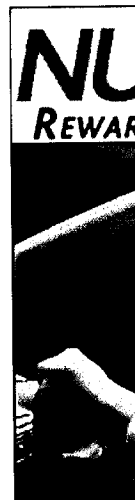
Information and reservations: 845-359-6090 or fax 845-359-6248.

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Arkontaky and Ehrens both are parents of special-needs children and so have first-hand knowledge of the issues. The workshop is designed for parents, grandparents, guardians and adult siblings of special-needs individuals. Reservations are requested.

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