

March 28, 2008
For Immediate Release

Advocates for Access Offering Special Needs Estate Planning and Government Benefits Workshop

Advocates for Access, formerly Central Illinois Center for Independent Living, will be hosting a workshop on Special Needs Estate Planning and Government Benefits on Saturday, April 5, 2008 from 9:00 am – 12:30 pm for parents and teachers of students with disabilities and community services providers. Guest speakers include Sherri Schneider, QMRP and attorney, Brian Rubin.

Schneider will present *Navigating the Alphabet Soup of Government Benefits – SSDI, SSI, IDPA, DFS, DHS, HBWD...etc....*. It is an informative, interactive workshop focusing upon Government Benefit eligibility for all populations. SSI, SSDI, Medicare and, with an emphasis on, Medicaid will be covered. Obtaining and sustaining Medicaid is vital to participate in the Medicaid waiver programs. Critical information will be discussed to help sustain current benefits now and in the future. Other programs highlighted included: ICHIP, varied prescription programs and other helpful benefits.

Rubin will present *Special Needs Estate Planning and Planning for when the Bus Stops Coming*. The who, what, where, when, why, and how of Special Needs Estate Planning including: Special Needs Trusts, Guardianship & Alternatives, gifting by grandparents and extended family members, the impact of divorce and child support on government benefits, determining the appropriate amount to leave, planning for when school years are over...when the bus stops coming, navigating the maze of Adult Services (In-Home, Residential, Supported Employment, Sheltered Employment, Developmental Training) Letters of intent or Guidance for Future Care Providers and Agency Staff, and many, many related topics.

The workshop will be held at Advocates for Access, 4450 N. Prospect Rd. Suite C8, Peoria Heights, IL 61616. This event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by Friday, April 4, 2008. Childcare is not provided. Reasonable accommodations must be requested by Tuesday, April 1. Please call Dorothy at 682-3500 (voice/vp) 682-3567 (TTY) or email danello@advocatesforaccess.com.

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About Advocates for Access:

Advocates for Access is a not-for-profit, non-residential organization, established in 1985. Advocates for Access is managed by and for people with disabilities. We are dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities to achieve quality of life through comprehensive programs that promote individual growth. To fulfill this mission, Advocates for Access provides direct services, combined with advocacy for social change to allow greater integration of persons with disabilities into the mainstream of community life.

"Empowering People With Disabilities To Live Independently In Our Community"