

## Special Needs Trust – *Capital First*

Capital First is a nationally recognized leader in Special Needs Trust administration. A Special Needs Trust (SNT) is a trust that preserves the beneficiary's eligibility for needs-based government benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Assets held by the trust are not "countable" for the purpose of these benefit programs. There are strict rules regarding disbursements of Special Needs Trust funds. As a general rule, the trust will supplement the beneficiary's government benefits, but will not replace them.

Although a Special Needs Trust is not often thought of as an Asset Protection Trust, it is actually a hybrid Asset Protection Trust. By establishing a Special Needs Trust, individuals are protected from claims from government agencies for services provided to the individual. By divesting assets into a SNT, it is possible to preserve the principal of the trust, provide for certain benefits to the individual, and allow the remaining assets to be paid to relatives or others at the trust's termination.

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For a closer look at the advantages of a proper SNT, you can find: ***Special Needs Trusts: A Trustee's Perspective***, a white paper written by Capital First's Senior Trust Officer, Jorge Aguilar Segura.

The paper can be found on our website here:

[www.capitalfirsttrust.com/trusts/special-needs-trust](http://www.capitalfirsttrust.com/trusts/special-needs-trust)



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