

Life Navigators Trusts II and III: Protecting Public Benefits While Improving Quality of Life

How Does a Life Navigators Trust Work with SSI and Medicaid?

If an individual with a disability has assets that are not held in a Special Needs Trust, once those assets accumulate to more than \$2,000, the individual would lose SSI and/or Medicaid benefits.

A Special Needs Trust is a legal tool whereby a person with a disability can benefit from assets in excess of \$2,000 without affecting public benefits.

What Happens with Leftover Funds from a Trust II or III After the Beneficiary's Lifetime?

A Trust II or III was originally funded by assets belonging to the Beneficiary. After the Beneficiary's lifetime, the State reviews the value of Medicaid services they received since establishing the Trust.

As per Medicaid rules, the State collects the portion of the remaining Trust funds needed to pay back the amount owed to the Beneficiary's Medicaid bill.

If there is more money remaining in the Trust than is owed back to the State for Medicaid services received, the State collects its portion and the remaining assets go to the remaindermen.



See Back for Further Information

Life Navigators Trusts II and III: Protecting Public Benefits While Improving Quality of Life

What Happens if There is Less Money in the Trust than is Owed to the State for Medicaid Services Received?

The trust was originally funded by assets belonging to the Beneficiary. As per Medicaid rules, if the services the Beneficiary received exceeds the value of the Trust, legally, the State would receive all of the remaining Trust funds to pay back the amount owed to his/her Medicaid bill.

What is the Life Navigators Retained Fund for Trusts II and III?

The Medicaid Payback rule is designed to ensure that Medicaid services, which supported the Beneficiary during their lifetime, are reimbursed. However, rather than having these funds go back to the State to pay back the services the Beneficiary received through Medicaid, the State chooses to designate these funds to Life Navigators so that the funds can make an immediate impact on other individuals with disabilities in our local community.

Since 2014, the State has chosen Life Navigators to retain these funds and use them directly for critical services, providing safe, happy, healthy lives for individuals and families with disabilities.



LIFE NAVIGATORS

Your Disability Partner

EST. 1949