

Support and Trustee Advisory Services

Who Are We?

The primary focus of Support & Trustee Advisory Services is to assist parents in the establishment of secure trust funds for individuals who have a disability. STAS can provide parents with information about trust funds as well as names of lawyers who are familiar with the unique needs of individuals who have a disability.

What Do We Do?

Support & Trustee Advisory Services (STAS) has entered into an arrangement with Royal Trust. This arrangement means that families have access to stable life-long trustee services for their sons and daughters at a reasonable cost. Royal Trust acts as trustee and manages the trust funds under the direction of STAS. Because many families will be involved, the minimum amount for an individual trust fund is \$10,000 (instead of the far greater sums usually required). Support & Trustee Advisory Services acts as Advisor to Royal Trust in these trusts and is the “go between” for Royal Trust and the beneficiary through the beneficiary’s support network. By providing this service, STAS ensures continuity in the protection of the beneficiary - STAS will work with family members, resource support workers, or residential managers of the applicable support services that provide support to individuals who have a disability.

How Can We Help?

Support - Planning for individuals who have a disability can be an overwhelming responsibility. Support & Trustee Advisory Services gives unbiased, non-partisan information about the things that parents must consider as they plan for their child’s future. A major objective of STAS is to help parents begin the planning process by sharing information and resources. STAS is continually searching for resources that may be of help to parents who are trying to plan for their child’s future. STAS maintains this information and makes it available to parents. As well, STAS maintains a list of lawyers and financial planners who are familiar with the workings of Henson Trusts. Although never recommending a particular legal or financial service, STAS can assist parents in choosing a lawyer or financial advisor.

There is so much to consider when planning for a son or daughter who has a disability. Certainly the financial aspect is very important, but parents must also look at the other aspects of their child’s life. Where will their child live, what supports should be put in place, can their family set up a network of support - even, what will their child’s day to day life look like? Parents can no longer count on a guaranteed level of support from service agencies, nor can anyone predict what the next 50 years will look like.

Trustee - If a parent chooses to arrange a trust fund for their child with Royal Trust and Support & Trustee Advisory Services, then STAS acts as the conduit between the beneficiary and their network of support, and the Trustee, Royal Trust. Funds requested must pass through the STAS’s scrutiny before being submitted to Royal Trust. Requests for funds must be substantiated with receipts or a written estimate.

Advisory - One of the goals of STAS is to assist parents in planning for their child's future. A supportive resource parents can trust - Support & Trustee Advisory Services is affiliated with both Community Living Mississauga and Brampton Caledon Community Living and has offices both in Mississauga and Brampton.

Services - Aside from the consultative aspect of Support & Trustee Advisory Services, STAS offers parent information sessions, and produces a quarterly newsletter. While the services offered are free, STAS maintains the right to charge a small annual fee on trusts for which it acts as advisor and does charge a \$10.00 annual membership fee.

For more information please visit: <http://www.supportandtrusteeadvisoryservices.ca/>