

CHAPTER 634A

SUPPLEMENTAL NEEDS TRUSTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Referred to in [§121.3](#)

634A.1 Definitions.

634A.2 Supplemental needs trust — requirements.

634A.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Person with a disability*” means a person to whom one of the following applies, prior to creation of a trust which otherwise qualifies as a supplemental needs trust for the person’s benefit:

a. Is considered to be a person with a disability under the disability criteria specified in Tit. II or Tit. XVI of the federal Social Security Act.

b. Has a physical or mental illness or condition which, in the expected natural course of the illness or condition, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, is expected to continue for a continuous period of twelve months or more and substantially impairs the person’s ability to provide for the person’s care or custody.

2. “*Supplemental needs trust*” means an inter vivos or testamentary trust created for the benefit of a person with a disability and funded by a person other than the trust beneficiary or the beneficiary’s spouse, and which is declared to be a supplemental needs trust in the instrument creating the trust. “*Supplemental needs trust*” shall include, but is not limited to, a trust created for the benefit of a person with a disability and funded solely with moneys awarded as damages in a personal injury case or moneys received in the settlement of a personal injury case provided that the trust is created within six months of receiving the award or settlement, the trust is irrevocable, the beneficiary is not named a trustee of the trust, and the instrument creating the trust declares the trust to be a supplemental needs trust.

[97 Acts, ch 112, §1](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1023, §84](#)

634A.2 Supplemental needs trust — requirements.

1. A supplemental needs trust established in compliance with [this chapter](#) is in keeping with the public policy of this state and is enforceable.

2. A supplemental needs trust established under [this chapter](#) shall comply with all of the following:

a. Shall be established as a discretionary trust for the purpose of providing a supplemental source for payment of expenses which include but are not limited to the reasonable living expenses and basic needs of a person with a disability only if benefits from publicly funded benefit programs are not sufficient to provide adequately for those expenses and needs.

b. Shall contain provisions which prohibit disbursements that would result in replacement, reduction, or substitution for publicly funded benefits otherwise available to the beneficiary or in rendering the beneficiary ineligible for publicly funded benefits. The supplemental needs trust shall provide for distributions only in a manner and for purposes that supplement or complement the benefits available under medical assistance, state supplementary assistance, and other publicly funded benefit programs for persons with disabilities.

3. For the purpose of establishing eligibility of a person as a beneficiary of a supplemental needs trust, disability may be established conclusively by the written opinion of a licensed professional who is qualified to diagnose the illness or condition, if confirmed by the written opinion of a second licensed professional who is also qualified to diagnose the illness or condition.

4. A supplemental needs trust is not enforceable if the trust beneficiary becomes a patient or resident after sixty-four years of age in a state institution or nursing facility for six months or more and, due to the beneficiary’s medical need for care in an institutional setting, there is no reasonable expectation, as certified by the beneficiary’s attending physician, that

the beneficiary will be discharged from the facility. For the purposes of [this subsection](#), a beneficiary participating in a group residential program is not a patient or resident of a state institution or nursing facility.

5. The trust income and assets of a supplemental needs trust are considered available to the beneficiary for medical assistance or other public assistance program purposes to the extent that income and assets are considered available in accordance with the methodology applicable to a particular program.

6. A supplemental needs trust is not subject to administration in the Iowa district court sitting in probate. A trustee of a supplemental needs trust has all powers and shall be subject to all the duties and liabilities of a trustee as provided in the probate code, except the duty of reporting to or obtaining approval of the court.

7. Notwithstanding the prohibition of the funding of a supplemental needs trust by the beneficiary or the beneficiary's spouse, a supplemental needs trust may be established with the proceeds of back payments made by the United States social security administration resulting from a judgment regarding the regulatory schemes for determination of the disability of a child.

8. Any funds retained in a supplemental needs trust of a beneficiary who is also a designated beneficiary as defined in [section 12I.1](#) may be transferred to the Iowa ABLE savings plan trust account of the designated beneficiary in accordance with [this chapter](#) and [chapter 12I](#).

[97 Acts, ch 112, §2](#); [2021 Acts, ch 136, §9](#)

For medical assistance trusts, see [chapter 633C](#)