



Family Support News



7-3-2025



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of
Developmental Services

Dispute Options & Due Process in Special Education

The Arc of Bristol County's Family Support Center is pleased to welcome Beth Doyle, Education Program Manager at DDS - Department of Developmental Services, to present the workshop Dispute Options & Due Process in Special Education. Ideally, families and schools always agree on what a student needs and how it should be provided. However, occasionally there are disagreements. Come and join us to explore the different avenues for resolving disputes about the IEP.

ASL interpretation will be available at both of these learning opportunities.

VIRTUAL
Monday, July 14th
7:00 - 8:30pm

REGISTER NOW!

IN-PERSON
Thursday, July 24th
10:00am - 11:30am



217 S. Main St. Attleboro

774-203-6463

Mon-Sat 9:00-5:00

Sun 11:00-6:00

Open play	Monthly pass	10 visits
\$13.95	\$45	\$112
Children under 3 years \$9.95 non crawling infants under 1 year are free admission includes unlimited open play all day	Childer under 3 years \$39 enjoy unlimited open play 7 days a week for the entire month family passes are available at discounted prices. 2 children \$60, 3 children \$112 Children under 3 years 2 children \$68, 3 children \$98	Children under 3 years \$89 To be used at anytime within 12 months of purchasing



This business is not affiliated or sponsored by our Family Support Center. We are sharing so that families can participate on their own if they choose.



Follow The Arc of Bristol County on Facebook for daily information updates and further resource sharing!



Are you looking to connect
with other caregivers?

Do you have questions
about how to best support
your child?

Are you looking to meet
people who understand the
ups and downs of caring for
loved ones with disabilities?

Join Family Support
Coordinator Ida Lindquist
for our Parents' &
Caregivers' Group!

Questions? Contact:
Ida Lindquist
Family Support
Coordinator at
ILindquist@arcnbc.org

VIRTUAL

Tuesday
7/22/25
7-8pm

Register to
receive
the meeting
link by email.

IN-PERSON

Thursday
7/17/25
10:00am-11:00am
Family Support
Center
140 Park Street
3rd FL Attleboro

If we have a
large group
we may move
across the
street to our
larger building.
We will email all
registrants with
any changes.

Snacks served.
Register below.



REGISTER NOW

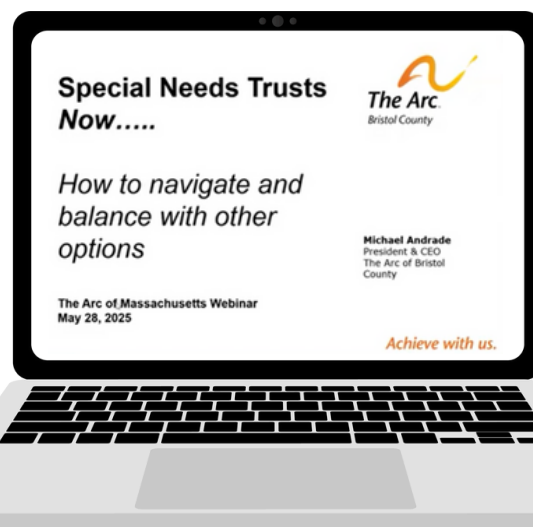


Special Needs Trusts Now! How to Navigate with Other Options

Missed the live webinar? No problem! You can
watch the replay!

Join The Arc of Massachusetts as they review
the latest future-planning tools to maximize an
individual's benefits and provide financial
security. Learn more about trusts, trustees, and
ABLE accounts, and how they can be used to
secure the future for individuals with disabilities
and their families. Don't just worry about what
happens after you're gone; attend this webinar
and take the first step in learning about the
process and your options!

Presenter Michael Andrade is President and
CEO of The Arc of Bristol County, which offers
special trust services. Michael has more than 25
years of experience developing and managing
services for children and adults with intellectual
and developmental disabilities, and their
families. Michael is also a Licensed Independent
Clinical Social Worker and serves on many
disability policy coalitions and statewide
boards.



Entendiendo la Toma de Decisiones con Apoyo



24 de Julio
12-1:00pm



- Aprender sobre los principios de la Toma de Decisiones con Apoyo y como se utiliza como alternativa a la custodia legal.
- Discutir sobre los roles y responsabilidades tanto de los adultos jóvenes como del equipo de apoyo.
- Escuchar de forma directa a una persona que está usando la Toma de Decisiones con Apoyo en su vida diaria.
- Para preguntas contacta a: Dawn Monaco,
dmonaco@spanadvocacy.org

Enlace para Unirse!

FCSN es miembro de una comunidad regional de práctica llamada REAL Transition Partners. Están ofreciendo este seminario web sobre la Toma de Decisiones Apoyada. Todos son bienvenidos. Es gratuito, virtual y está repleto de información importante sobre este tema. También se proporcionará interpretación al español.

This webinar is available in SPANISH ONLY!
¡Este seminario web está disponible SOLO EN ESPAÑOL!



This webinar is not hosted by our Family Support Center. We are sharing so that families can participate on their own if they choose.

Este seminario web no es organizado por nuestro Centro de Apoyo Familiar. Lo compartimos para que las familias puedan participar por su cuenta si así lo eligen.



Transition to Adulthood Workshop

Date: Thursday, August 14th, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 8:00pm

**Location: The Arc of Bristol County
Family Support Center**

140 Park Street, 3rd Fl. Attleboro, MA 02703

Transition planning for students starts at age 14 in Massachusetts. Applications for adult services in many areas should take place at the age of 18. Many families feel overwhelmed with the transition process. The Arc of Bristol County is here to help. Join us for a training workshop to learn about:

- **Transition timelines**
- **How to address transition in your child's IEP**
- **How to begin navigating adult services**

Families will come away with a one-of-a-kind binder with transition to adult services info neatly organized for you.

Advance registration is required by Monday, August 11th. Questions can be directed to Kristin Boisclair at KBoisclair@arcnbc.org.





Autism, Wandering, and Water Safety

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Safety Checklist

- ☐ Lock windows, doors, yards, and water access
- ☐ Know the dangers in your neighborhood
- ☐ Use a GPS or tracking device to support supervision
- ☐ Write down important information to share with emergency responders
- ☐ Teach neighbors about your family's concerns and how to contact you
- ☐ Ask your child's doctor, behavior specialist, and teacher, for help
- ☐ Introduce your child to local police, firefighters, and EMTs
- ☐ Teach your child to swim and create safe water habits

Know the Dangers

Children with **ASD** are more likely to leave a safe place without an adult. This is called **wandering**. Some people call it elopement or bolting. Many children with autism are interested in water. If they wander to water, it can be **dangerous**.

The #1 cause of death for children with autism is drowning, usually after wandering.

There are things you can do to help stop wandering and help emergency workers to find your child if they go missing.



If your child is missing, call 911 immediately.

Help Stop Wandering

KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

- Put locks or guards on your doors and windows.
- Put stop signs up on your doors and windows.
- If possible, add a fence to your yard.
- Fence and alarm any pools or other water sources.

USE A TRACKING DEVICE

Look for one that is easy to wear, waterproof, and has a long battery life. These can enhance, but not replace, supervision.

ASK FOR HELP FROM EXPERTS

Talk to your child's doctor, behavior specialist, and teacher about skills to prevent wandering, like asking for what they want or need, knowing what's dangerous, creating safe water habits, and how to get help if they need it.



Plan for an Emergency

KNOW THE DANGERS NEARBY

- Look around your neighborhood for risky places like pools, ponds, or lakes. Write down places that your child is drawn to.

TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

- Ask your neighbors to keep an eye out and keep water areas safe.

MAKE AN EMERGENCY INFO SHEET

- Create a file with important information about your child. Include things like a current photo, physical description, how they communicate, and where they might go.

MEET LOCAL HELPERS

- Some police and fire stations have programs where your child can meet first responders. You can also register your phone number with them.

TAKE WATER SAFETY AND SWIM LESSONS

- Learning to swim and be safe around water can help your child stay calm and give emergency workers more time to help if needed.

Visit Our Website

For more information about wandering and emergency preparedness, especially:

- A list of tracking devices,
- State programs and foundations that can pay for services, and
- Emergency preparedness planning tools



mass.gov/AutismWaterSafety

Caregiver Support

- Worrying about your child's safety all the time can be stressful and tiring. If you need help, try contacting an **Autism Support Center** near you. You are not alone.



www.mass.gov/info-details/autism-support-centers-list