

Division of Developmental Disabilities

PO Box 726, Trenton, NJ 08625

Chris Christie, Governor
Kim Guadagno, Lieutenant GovernorJennifer Velez, Commissioner
Dawn Appgar, Deputy Commissioner

Contribution to Care Fact Sheet

Your responsibilities once your child enters a residential placement

Children with developmental disabilities have needs that cannot always be met at home. Under certain circumstances, the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can assist families by arranging for their loved ones to enter a residential placement where trained staff will provide day-to-day care.

If this is your family's experience, it is important for you, as a parent or legal guardian, to understand your financial responsibilities once your child enters a residential placement.

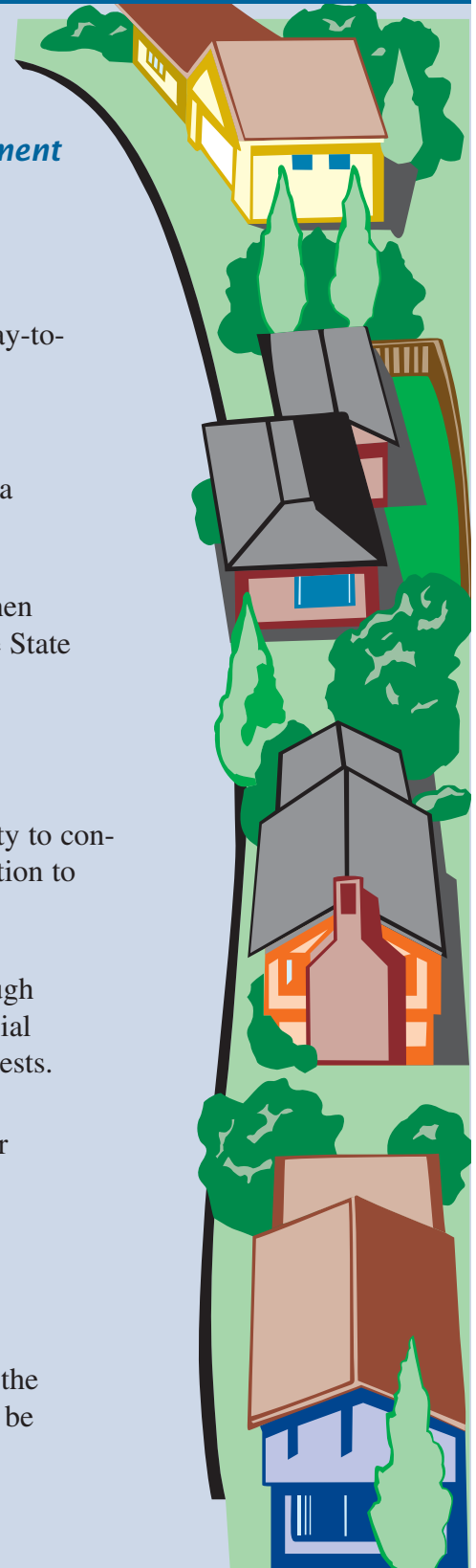
These responsibilities are required by law and outlined in NJAC 10:46D. When families comply, they offset a portion of the considerable cost of care that the State must bear and allow us to serve additional individuals.

The basics . . .

DDD has retained a company called Maximus to help evaluate families' ability to contribute to the cost of their children's care. This is referred to as the "contribution to care."

Each year, for as long as your child is in a residential placement funded through the division, a Maximus representative will contact you to review your financial situation. You must provide any financial information the representative requests.

- ***If your child is under 18***, your contribution to care will be based on your financial situation and on any unearned income your child receives.
- ***If your child is 18 or older***, a contribution to care will be assessed based solely on his or her unearned income and/or wages.
- ***In all cases***, a lien will be filed against the real and personal property of the individual who is entering a residential placement. Additional liens may be filed later if you are assessed a contribution to care but do not pay it.



What else will I be required to do?

When instructed to do so by DDD, you must apply for all benefits for which your child might be eligible and make sure they do not lapse once your child begins receiving them. Two of the most important are:

- **Medicaid DDD Community Care Waiver (CCW)** - This program, which a division representative will help you apply for if your child is eligible, allows the division to receive federal funding to help pay the cost of your child's care.
- **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** - The division will assess 75 percent of this federal benefit after first deducting a Personal Needs Allowance to cover your child's personal needs. You must apply to the U.S. Social Security Administration (www.socialsecurity.gov) to receive SSI.

What about health insurance?

Your child's healthcare needs will not end once he or she moves into residential placement. You are responsible for making sure your child has health insurance.

- **If you have private insurance**, you will continue to be responsible for paying all premiums and co-pays related to your child's healthcare.
- **Depending on your child's age and individual situation**, the division may ask you to apply for Medicaid. A division representative will help you determine what is most appropriate.

How long will my responsibilities last?

You and your child will be assessed a contribution to care until your child's 18th birthday. After that, only your child will be assessed a contribution to care.

Your contribution to care covers only part of the cost of your child's care. If you or your child should ever have additional resources, such as an inheritance, the division may seek to recover an amount equal to the full costs of your child's care.

What happens if I do not abide by these guidelines?

DDD can terminate your child's residential placement if you do not comply with your assessed contribution to care. Before that happens, however, the division may take other appropriate action, to include sending your bill for collection. In addition, any liens filed against you or your child's real or personal property by the division can be enforced at the time the property is sold.

