

News From The Center

Information and Support for the Special Needs Community

MetLife[®]



MetLife Center for Special Needs PlanningSM - The Rebranding of MetDESK

After a decade of service to the special needs community, it's time for us to make some exciting changes. The special needs community, the market and our field force is evolving. To help us maintain our lead it is time for us to evolve as well. To remain vibrant and effective, we must keep up with the times. It's time for a new image, time to create a stronger voice in the industry, time to reenergize the program, time to signal a change in direction, focus, and strategy of special needs planning.



Introducing The MetLife Center for Special Needs PlanningSM, formerly MetDESK, officially debuting January 1, 2010. We will have a broader focus - serving all of the special needs community. The Center has been created to extend our traditional commitment of public service to families with dependents of any age,

from infant to senior, with a disability. MetLife is committed to helping families through the maze of legal and financial complexities surrounding planning for the future of dependents with special needs. Our Special Needs Planners can help families secure lifetime care and quality of life for their loved ones, even when they may no longer be there for them.

People with disabilities constitute the nation's largest minority group, and the only group any of us can become a member of at any time. Did you know that of the 69.6 million families in the United States, more than 20 million have at least one family member with a disability?

- Of the 20.9 million families reporting at least one member with a disability, 5.5 percent have both adults and children with a disability.
- 21.2 million individuals reported having a disability that limits their ability to engage in basic physical activity such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting or carrying.
- 9.3 Million reported having a sensory disability involving sight or hearing.

- One in every three families with a female householder with no husband present reported members with a disability.
- One in every 26 American families reported raising children with a disability.
- One out of 9 children under the age of 18 in the US today receive special education services.
- An estimated 2.8 million families were raising at least one child aged 5 to 17 with a disability.
- Among the 2.8 million families, 367,000 families, 1.3 percent, reported raising two or more children with a disability.

In order to best serve this growing market, The Center was established to accomplish the following:

- Provide support and services to all caregivers of all people with disabilities.
- Preserve the prospective and dedication of our planners, clients and partners.
- Keep pace with changing consumer needs.
- Create a common sense of purpose.
- Signal a change in the our direction, focus and strategy.
- Capitalize on new opportunities.
- Create a current, vibrant, and compelling brand.
- Create a brand that conveys the desired meaning with clarity and purpose.

With the baby boomers graying and becoming the sandwich generation, the face of caregiving has changed and so have we. At MetLife, our focus on special needs planning is evolving with the families we serve. We recognize that caregivers and their dependents are of all ages and relationships. And, while caregivers are



“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

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aging, dependents are living longer as well. We're a leader in special needs planning and are poised as the Company families turn to for help with planning for their loved one with special needs.

We recognize the insight of Leo Platt, CEO, Hewlett Packard -

“Whatever made you successful in the past, won't in the future.” and know now is the time for change.

MetLife Center for Special Needs PlanningSM works with national non profits and individuals to help support the mutual goal of helping individuals with special needs. The Center is dedicated to helping families plan for the future of dependents with special needs. Helping you answer those questions, directing you to the right resources, and just being there as a resource and advocate for you, is an important part of what we do. If you'd like to find out more, or you'd like to be referred to a local MetLife Special Needs Planner, please call 1-877-638-3375, or visit our website at www.metlife.com/specialneeds.

MetLife, its agents, and representatives may not give legal or tax advice. The discussion contained herein or related to this document is for general information purposes only and does not purport to be complete or cover every situation. Certain rules regarding special needs planning vary from state to state. You should seek the advice of your own legal and tax counsel to determine how the rules in your state may apply to your own circumstances

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