

WHILE THE NAMES OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONALS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED PURELY FOR PARENT INFORMATION, CRPA DOES NOT IN ANY WAY RECOMMEND OR ENDORSE THESE PROVIDERS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK THEIR REFERENCES, REVIEW THEIR CREDENTIALS, AND INTERVIEW THEM TO UNDERSTAND WHETHER THEIR SKILLS AND APPROACH ARE A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR CHILD.

Legal Advisors/Advocates

Steven Chick, CFP, CLU, ChFC

**197 South Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201**

Phone: **(413) 499-0620**

fax: **(413) 499-3613**

email: **steve.chick@nmfn.com**

www.stevechick.com

Experience in Special Needs Planning

Providing financial services for families of individuals with special needs with an understanding that families with special needs are faced with unique concerns and challenges regarding the life-long care of their loved ones. Will work with you to identify your goals for yourself, your family and your loved one with special needs and educating you on your options for achieving a lifetime of financial security.

Laura Edmonds, Esq.

**134 Hight Street
Holyoke, MA 01040**

Phone: **(413) 538-9654**

private attorney listing referral by Janine Solomon at Disability Law Center

Alisia St. Florian, Esq.

**60 Centre Street
Dover, MA 02030**

Phone: **(508) 785-8300**

fax: **(508) 785-8020**

<http://www.childtort.com/pages/attorney.html>

A typical trust instrument requires the trustee to administer the trust funds so as to enable the beneficiary to lead the most fulfilling life possible. The trust also requires the trustee to maximize available public benefits, including special education. Thus, hands-on advocacy is required to assist the child and his/her parent/guardian. Attorney St. Florian provides special educational advocacy for the trust beneficiaries for whom Attorney Milne serves as Trustee. works with families and children to ensure that they receive appropriate educational services within the school system to address their particular disability.

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Legal Advisors/Advocates

Eileen Sullivan-Boss

117 Park Ave. Ste 300

West Springfield, MA 01089-3363

Phone: **(413) 746-9022**

guardianship

Elizabeth Dougal

Attorney At Law

264 North Main Street; Suite 14

East Longmeadow, MA 01028

Phone: **(413) 525-0076**

email: **Edougal*@aol.com**

Bonnie Allen, Esq.

Bonnie G. Allen Law Offices

1145 Main Street

Springfield, MA 01103

Phone: **(413) 734-0100**

Parent of a son with autism, who died in 2000. She is a lawyer who is good at SPED and other disability issues.

Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA)

, MA

Phone: **(781) 338-6400**

fax: **(781) 338-3398**

email: **sea@doe.mass.edu**

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/bsea/about.html>

The Bureau of Special Education Appeals provides dispute resolution services to all eligible students within the Commonwealth including due process hearings conducted by eight hearing officers and mediation conducted by eight mediators

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Legal Advisors/Advocates

Carol Booth, Esq.
Burres, Fidnick & Booth
190 University Drive
Amherst, MA 01002

Phone: **(413) 253-3900**

private attorney listing referral by Janine Solomon at Disability Law Center

Atty. Matthew Engel
Disability Law Center
30 Industrial Drive East
Northampton, MA 01060

Primary Phone: **(800) 222-5619**

Secondary Phone: **(413) 584-6337**

TTY: (413) 582-6919

Intake number: (800) 872-9992

Main Office: 11 Beacon St, Suite 925, Boston, MA 02108 (800) 872-9992 TTY (800) 381-0577

Disability Law Center, Inc.
32 Industrial Drive East
Northampton, MA 01060

Phone: **(413) 584-6337**

fax: **(413) 584-2976**

email: **mail@dlc-ma.org**

www.dlc-ma.org

The Disability Law Center (DLC) is the Protection and Advocacy agency for Massachusetts. DLC is a private, non-profit organization responsible for providing protection and advocacy for the rights of Massachusetts residents with disabilities.

DLC provide information, referral, technical assistance and representation regarding legal rights and services for people with disabilities.

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Legal Advisors/Advocates

Attny: Claire Thompson
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Phone: **(413) 733-3111**

Attorney Dennis F. Desmarais
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Secondary Phone: **(413) 204-8439**

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educational advocacy or due process hearings and litigation for failure to implement or to write a proper individual education plan

Institute for Community Inclusion - UMASS Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Phone: **(617) 287-4300**

fax: **(617) 287-4352**

email: **ici@umb.edu**

The Institute for Community Inclusion supports the rights of children and adults with disabilities to participate in all aspects of the community. As practitioners, researchers, and teachers, we form partnerships with individuals, families, and communities. Together we advocate for personal choice, self-determination, and social and economic justice.

Key Interest Areas: Employing people with disabilities in community settings; Supporting children and young adults with special health care needs; Accessing general education, and transition from school to adult life; Expanding local recreation and school activities to include people with disabilities; Promoting technology that aids participation in school/community/work activities; Building organizations' ability to serve culturally diverse people with disabilities; Examining the impact of national and state policies on people with disabilities and their families.

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Legal Advisors/Advocates

Johanne Pino

Mass Advocates for Children (MAC)

25 Kingston St. Ste 2F

Boston, MA 02111-2200

Phone: (617) 357-8431 x234 fax: (617) 357-8438

email: jpino@massadvocates.org

www.massadvocates.org

Autism Special Education Legal Support Center

Autism Legal Hotline, technical assistance, community workshops, legislative advocacy

Mass Justice Project

57 Suffolk St., Ste. 401

Holyoke, MA 01040

Primary Phone: (800) 639-1209 fax: (413) 535-1774

Secondary Phone: (413) 533-2660

web: www.neighborhoodlaw.org

Priorities: Housing, elderly, public benefits, disability, family law. MJP performs intake for Western Massachusetts Legal Services and Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts.

Holyoke Office Service Area: All of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties.

Languages:

Portuguese, Spanish

Diane Fernald, Esq.

Ryan & Fernald Law Offices

351 Pleasant Street; Ste. 1

Northampton, MA 01060

Phone: (413) 585-0004

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Legal Advisors/Advocates

Benjamin Smith
Simons, Smith & Gerrard
75 North St
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Phone: **(413) 442-2731**

guardianship, estate planning, etc.

The Father Gengras Center For Justice c/o ARC/CONN
111 Gillette St.
Hartford, CT 06105

Phone: **(860) 953-8335** fax: **(860) 953-8343**

www.arcct.com

The Father Gengras Center provides legal advocacy and lawyer referrals for people with mental retardation and/or related developmental disabilities involved in the criminal justice system.

The Law Firm of Spain, Spain and Varnet
2 Brigham St
Northborough, MA 01532

Phone: **(508) 393-4380**

Attny. Varnet has experience in special needs and is associated with a variety of disability groups

The Patriot Group
510 Elm St
Worcester, MA 01609

Phone: **(508) 791-0916**

web: www.patriot.nef.com

This group has provided training for families in the area regarding Life Planning/Financial Planning for families with special needs children.

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Legal Advisors/Advocates

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web: www.wmls.org

The mission of Western Massachusetts Legal Services (WMLS) is to provide civil legal assistance to low income individuals and groups in western Massachusetts. WMLS helps clients meet their basic human needs through advice, representation and education in a manner that encourages their autonomy and respects their dignity. WMLS also addresses systemic issues that affect large numbers of low-income people. WMLS is committed to eliminating barriers that divide people based on their socioeconomic status.
