

## Transition Information

### **THE COMPLETE TRANSITION LIST:**

**Transition Tasks Beginning at Age 18: The DDS Helpline recommends the following tasks:**

1. Connect with your DDS Transition Advisor
2. Explore Decision Making Options (Probate Court)
3. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
4. CT Medicaid: Husky C (DSS)
5. Work Assessment (BRS)
6. Photo ID (DMV)
7. Register to Vote

### **DDS contact:**

#### **DDS West Region Helpline**

Phone: 1-877-491-2720

Email: [dds.wr.ifshelpline@ct.gov](mailto:dds.wr.ifshelpline@ct.gov)

**Apply for SSI** • Supplemental Security Income • Federal program designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income • Cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter

#### **Apply for Social Security at [www.SSA.gov](http://www.SSA.gov) or call 1-800-772-1213**

• Being approved for SSI establishes the student's disability • Apply for SSI before applying for CT Medicaid (Husky C) • After age 18, family income and assets should not be documented in the application. The individual is considered a family of one.

**Apply for CT Medicaid (HUSKY C)** • Medicaid is a state-federal partnership to provide health care services to adults with disabilities, who are elderly or have low-income.

- When the individual turns 18 years of age, apply for CT Medicaid (Husky C) at [connect.ct.gov](http://connect.ct.gov).
- The process will go smoother if the student has already **been found eligible for SSI**.
- Apply for the individual only, separate from other family members residing in the home who may also have Medicaid.
- To be eligible, an individual's assets cannot exceed \$1,600, unless they are working. • Students can remain on parent's/private insurance as primary insurance. • Check application status @ 1-855-626- 6632

Documentation to include with the completed application:

- Copy of Birth Certificate
- Copy of Medical Insurance card – both sides, front and back
- Copy of Probate Court Decree – showing the appointment of Legal Guardian/Conservator (if applicable)
- Copies of three (3) months of Bank Statements for any checking or savings account (include only statements containing the individual's name, such as a representative payee account, custodial account, co-account, individual account)
- Copy of letter from Social Security verifying how much individual will receive from SSI

- And a letter indicating the parent(s) is the landlord and how much room and board they are charging their child

**IMPORTANT:** In order to utilize available DDS resources post-school, the individual must be eligible for CT Medicaid (Husky C). DSS requires an annual redetermination to maintain Husky C eligibility.

**Explore Decision Making Options Guardianship /Conservatorship:**

- Petition your local Probate Court up to 180 days before 18th birthday
- Fee \$250 plus sheriff fee (fee can be waived depending on income)
- Initiates a process culminating in a court hearing
- 2 types : Limited or Plenary (full) • Process completed within 45 days • Guardianship is reviewed every 3 years and can be terminated Conservatorship

- Petition your local Probate Court up to 45 days before 18th birthday
- Conservator of Person
- Conservator of Estate
- Conservatorships may be voluntary or involuntary PLEASE NOTE: Court appointments for guardianship/conservatorship will not be effective until the 18th birthday.

Other Options to Consider • Natural Supports • Power of Attorney • Advanced Directive(s) • Supported Decision Making

In Connecticut, a person under the age of 18 is considered to be a minor. A guardian is a person who has the legal right and duty to take care of a minor or a minor's assets. There are two types of guardianship for minors: guardianship of the person and guardianship of the estate. A guardian of the person has the responsibility to care for the minor. A guardian of the estate manages the minor's assets. The following is a description of the duties and responsibilities of guardians. Part I covers guardianship of the person. Part II summarizes the laws governing removal of a parent as guardian. Part III covers guardianship of the estate. Part I. Guardian of the Person of a Minor The guardian of the person of a minor is an adult authorized by law to take physical control of, and provide care for, the minor. That broad authority includes making medical and personal decisions concerning the welfare of the minor. The parents of a child are joint guardians of the person of the minor by law. This means that each parent has equal powers, rights and responsibilities with respect to the minor, unless otherwise ordered by a court. Parents of a child include anyone whose parentage has been established under Connecticut law. If a parent dies or is removed as a guardian, the remaining parent of the child is the guardian of the person of the child. A Probate Court may appoint a guardian of the person of a minor 1) at the request of a parent or another court-appointed guardian, or 2) if the child has no guardian.

**Guardianship:**

Persons with intellectual disabilities may be unable to meet essential requirements for their physical health and safety, or unable to make informed decisions about matters related to their care. A Court appointed guardian is not necessary for all adults with intellectual disabilities, however, the Probate Court is authorized to appoint a guardian in cases where it would be appropriate. The Court works in conjunction with the State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services. For assistance specific to your matter, please contact the Court. Typically the appointment gives discretion to the guardian on education, residential and healthcare decisions and not always fiscal authority. This would be guardian of the estate.

**Conservatorship:**

The Probate Court will often appoint a conservator for individuals who are incapable of caring for themselves and/or their property. Often, the conservator is a family member or a trusted friend of the respondent. In other situations, the Court may appoint a conservator to be responsible for protecting the interests of these individuals. A conservator is authorized by law to provide supervision and is an agent of the Court. As there are various types of conservatorships, it is recommended that anyone considering a conservatorship contact the Court, as well as legal counsel. Conservatorship typically comes into play in regards to financial and fiscal aspects.

### **Vocational Support:**

#### **Contact the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)**

- BRS is under the State Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS). Their sister agency, the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB), is also under ADS.
  - BRS assists individuals with significant disabilities to obtain, maintain and advance in competitive integrated employment (CIE).
  - full or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to those without disabilities performing the same work, and fully integrated with coworkers without disabilities.
  - Individuals who are interested in employment or are still making this decision are encouraged to contact BRS within the year that they are exiting special education.
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- When?
  - BRS presently recommends contacting them six months prior to an individual's 22nd birthday at minimum.
  - Who do you contact?
  - [lynn.frith@ct.gov](mailto:lynn.frith@ct.gov) or (860) 424-4863
  - Annual Letter sent by BRS and DDS
  - Ongoing collaboration between DDS and BRS

Regards,  
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# Helpful resources

- Carelon Behavioral Health: [Carelon Behavioral Health | Behavioral Health Services \(Beacon\)](https://www.carelonbehavioralhealth.com)  
<https://www.carelonbehavioralhealth.com>
- Children's Services Division Fact Sheet [for Families & Providers](#)
- Connecticut Advocacy Center: [Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center - CPAC \(cpacinc.org\)](https://cpacinc.org)  
<https://cpacinc.org>
- Connecticut Family Support Network: [Home - CT Family Support Network \(ctfsn.org\)](https://ctfsn.org)
- Connecticut State Department of Education/Special Education: [Special Education \(ct.gov\)](https://portal.ct.gov/sde/services/special-education)  
<https://portal.ct.gov/sde/services/special-education>
- DDS Help Line: [DDS Help Line \(ct.gov\)](https://portal.ct.gov/dds/contact-us/dds-help-line?language=en_US)  
[https://portal.ct.gov/dds/contact-us/dds-help-line?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/dds/contact-us/dds-help-line?language=en_US)
- Department of Children and Families: [Connecticut Department of Children and Families](#)
- Department of Children and Families Voluntary Care Management: [Voluntary Services Program \(ct.gov\)](https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/behavioral-health-partnership/voluntary-services-program?language=en_US)  
[https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/behavioral-health-partnership/voluntary-services-program?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/dcf/behavioral-health-partnership/voluntary-services-program?language=en_US)
- Individual and Family Grant: [Individual and Family Grants \(ct.gov\)](https://portal.ct.gov/dds/searchable-archive/family/supports-and-services/individual-and-family-grants?language=en_US)  
[https://portal.ct.gov/dds/searchable-archive/family/supports-and-services/individual-and-family-grants?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/dds/searchable-archive/family/supports-and-services/individual-and-family-grants?language=en_US)
- Paid Family Caregivers: [Paid Family Caregivers Information \(ct.gov\)](https://portal.ct.gov/dds/knowledge-base/articles/paid-family-caregivers-information?language=en_US)  
[https://portal.ct.gov/dds/knowledge-base/articles/paid-family-caregivers-information?language=en\\_US](https://portal.ct.gov/dds/knowledge-base/articles/paid-family-caregivers-information?language=en_US)
- Respite Centers: [Residential Living - Welcome to Ädelbrook \(adelbrook.org\)](https://adelbrook.org) | [Respite Flyer 062624.pdf \(benhaven.org\)](https://benhaven.org)

