
Special Needs of Children

We understand that some children have special needs. We have had experience in negotiating and obtaining parenting orders for children with special or extra needs arising from:

- autism including Aspergers (or Asbergers) syndrome
- ADHD
- munchausen's syndrome by proxy
- music or sporting ability
- educational giftedness
- intellectual and learning disabilities
- An agreement for the care arrangements of a child should accommodate any special needs of a child

An assessment by the Child Support Agency can be departed from to meet the increased costs of maintaining a child with special needs. Special needs do not always arise from a disability, but may arise from a special ability. Needs are special if they are beyond the usual needs of a child. Needs which may need to be met include facilities for a handicapped child, medical expenditure, and education.

Maintenance for a child over 18 years of age can be ordered by the court to enable a child to complete their education, or because of a mental or physical disability of the child. In determining the care arrangements for a child, the best interests of the child are the paramount consideration. When entering into care arrangements for a child with special needs the ability of each party to care for the child and meet the child's needs are considered.