

Is a Disability Benefits Trust for you ?

Are you person with PWD status?

Are you about to receive a substantial lump sum payment (CPP retro, Inheritance, Insurance settlement) which may disqualify you from receiving your disability benefits?

If you answered yes to both of the above questions, you may find that setting up a disability benefits trust is a useful vehicle for optimizing the benefits of your income.

There are two types of trust: Discretionary and Non- Discretionary, which one you need depends on your situation.

Coast's Program Restrictions

Coast's Trust Program is only for mental health clients preferably located in the Metro Vancouver region.

NOTE: the program is available **only for people with PWD status**. Ministry of Housing and Social Development has no trust provision for people with PPMB status.

If you want to apply for PWD status you can phone Legal Services Society at (604) 601-6075 for a free booklet on how to apply.



Mission Statement

Coast promotes recovery of persons with mental illness.

Since 1998, Coast Mental Health has been providing Trust services for people with mental illness.

For more information on the Trust Program or Coast's other programs and services call 604-872-3502 or visit us at our website: www.coastmentalhealth.com

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TRUST PROGRAM



C O A S T
M E N T A L H E A L T H

DISCRETIONARY &
NON-DISCRETIONARY
TRUSTS

How can a Trust help?

In very simple terms a trust is where someone (the "trustee") is holding money or other assets for someone else (the "beneficiary"). The money is held "in trust" for the beneficiary.

There are many uses and types of trusts, but Coast is offering a very simple structure designed to help mental health clients maximize the benefit from an additional asset without affecting their eligibility for PWD (Person With Disability) status

For example, "Jane" receives an inheritance of \$15,000. This normally would cause her to become ineligible for PWD because she is over the \$3,000 limit. However, if she put the money in one of the trusts, she will continue to receive her disability payments.



Eligible uses of Trust funds

Trust monies can be used to improve a client's health and well being without affecting a person's eligibility for PWD status. The trust must be used according to the government regulations.

Government Trust Disbursement Rules:

- a) devices, or medical aides, related to your health or well being;
- b) caregiver services or other services related to the Beneficiary's disability;
- c) education or training;
- d) necessary maintenance for the Beneficiary's principal residence;
- e) any other item or service necessary to promote the Beneficiary's independence.

Disbursements other than those listed or in excess of the \$5484 annual limit for item (e) are to be treated as unearned income. This income is to be deducted from any disability benefits in the month that the disbursement occurred.

Where is the money kept ?

Coast currently keeps the funds in separate trust accounts with Van City Credit Union. All income and expenses of the trust are separately accounted for and can be audited by the Ministry of Housing and Social Development

How do I set up a Trust?

1. Determine if you are eligible
2. Seek independent legal counsel. Coast can suggest some lawyers who may be of assistance.
3. If you don't need or want legal counsel, you should utilize the services of a person independent of Coast to act as your advocate. It is important that you understand the implications and issues involved with a Trust.
4. Obtain a copy of the Coast Trust Manual. This is available on Coast's website, www.coastmentalhealth.com
5. Obtain a copy of the booklet "Disability Assistance and Trust" from the office of the Ministry of Housing and Social Development.
5. Review materials with your lawyer or advocate and, if you wish to proceed call (604) 872-3502 to arrange to meet with a Trust Coordinator.
6. The signing of the Trust agreement and deposit of the funds initiates the Trust.

What are the costs?

Coast currently charges:

- one time set up fees
- annual fees
- closing fees
- unexpected administration fees