

# Turning 18 – Resources for Young Adults

## Age of Majority

An individual becomes his/her own guardian upon turning 18. At that time, the student is able to sign legal documents, vote, and sign agreement or disagreement to his/her Individual Education Program (IEP). See **FCPS Age of Majority** and **Educational Representation** brochures.

When appropriate, families may investigate guardianship and special needs trusts prior to age 18. Information is available on these topics at **The ARC** websites: [www.thearcofnova.org](http://www.thearcofnova.org) (local), [www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org) (national). The local ARC office number is **(703) 532-3214**.

## Benefits

Individuals with disabilities may meet financial eligibility for **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** benefits. Prior to age 18, family income is considered. After 18, individual income is considered. Contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) 30 days prior to a student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Call **1-800-772-1213** for application information.

When receiving SSI benefits, it is important to notify SSA of any changes in work status or income. SSI benefits are adjusted to reflect changes in income and/or living expenses. As individuals save or earn money, SSI payments will change since SSI is a needs-based benefit. SSA does make allowances for costs associated with disability Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWE) or Plans to Achieve Self Sufficiency (PASS). For **Benefits Planning Assistance**, contact the **Endeppendence Center of Northern Virginia, (703) 525-3268**.

Individuals eligible for SSI benefits may also be eligible for **Medicaid**. Call the **Fairfax County Department of Family Services** at **(703) 324-7500** and request the short Medicaid application form for use by people already receiving SSI. A variety of Medicaid Waiver programs can provide funding for eligible applicants: [www.dmas.virginia.gov/ltc-home.htm](http://www.dmas.virginia.gov/ltc-home.htm)

## Employment and Adult Services

Individuals with disabilities can apply for employment services through the **Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)**. An individual may also apply for services through the **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Mental Retardation (CSB/MR)** or **Mental Health Services (CSB/MH)** if they meet eligibility requirements. For residential services or respite care, it is important to open a case with the CSB/MR Services **before** the individual's final year of school. There may be waiting lists for all services.

<b>DRS</b>	<b>(703) 359-1124</b>
<b>CSB/MR Services</b>	<b>(703) 324-4400</b>
<b>CSB/MH Services</b>	<b>(703) 324-7095</b>

## Selective Service

Male U.S. citizens and male aliens living in the U.S. are required to register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Men with disabilities disqualifying them from military service still must register: <http://www.sss.gov>

## Transportation

Specialized transportation service -- **Metro Access** -- is available through the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Call **301-562-5360** for applications and information.