



A *trust* for life.



The Arc of Texas
MASTER POOLED

trust



Todd's Story

When Todd was 34, he was seriously injured in an automobile accident that left him paralyzed from the waist down. When he was awarded a generous settlement from a personal injury lawsuit, his attorney was concerned rather than relieved. She knew the additional income meant Todd would no longer be eligible for the Supplemental Security Income and Medicaid benefits that were paying for his primary living needs (food, housing and basic medical care). As a result, they established a Master Pooled Trust account in Todd's name that allowed the court to award the settlement directly to the trust for Todd's benefit, rather than to Todd himself. Todd considered placing the money in a bank trust, but he felt that he would need a great deal of information and support for the rest of his life. The fact that The Arc of Texas would manage his trust was extremely important and comforting to him.



Achieve with us. Join the Trust.



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For over 60 years, The Arc of Texas has been instrumental in the development of virtually every program, service, right and benefit available to the more than half a million Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ADVOCACY - The Arc is here to teach individuals and their families how to effectively advocate for themselves and the people they care about.

TRAININGS - The Arc offers an array of effective trainings in advocacy, education and independent living.

INFORMATION & REFERRAL - The Arc has a wealth of knowledge on all aspects of interest to individuals and families of people with disabilities.

WE ENVISION a world where people with disabilities are included in their communities and neighborhoods and where quality supports and services respond to their needs and personal choices.

What is The Arc of Texas Master Pooled Trust?

Established in 1997, the Master Pooled Trust remains the first and only Texas-based Special Needs Trust designed to improve the quality of life for all individuals with disabilities while providing resources for their ongoing supplemental needs.

This special needs trust is managed by The Arc of Texas with pre-approval from the Social Security Administration and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

The goal of the Master Pooled Trust is to provide financial security to all people with disabilities, and thus a higher quality of life, knowing that their public benefits are safeguarded.

Who's Eligible for the Trust?

Any Texas resident under the age of 65 who meets the Social Security Administration's definition of a person with a disability can benefit from the Master Pooled Trust. It is designed so that all individuals with disabilities and their families can benefit from the Master Pooled Trust.

Value for Individuals

Individuals who receive a personal injury settlement, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) back payment, inheritance or those with any holdings in a savings account may benefit, as the Master Pooled Trust enables them to use their funds while not jeopardizing their means-tested government benefits, like SSI or Medicaid.

Value for Families

Families are equally well served by the Master Pooled Trust. The Arc can hold, protect and administer inherited money in a professional, caring and cost-effective manner. Parents or family members who wish to provide funds to benefit their loved one with a disability can do so immediately or in the future from an insurance policy, an estate or other sources. And a third-party sub-account in the Master Pooled Trust helps ensure that your family member is cared for when you pass away.

Brianne's Story

Weighing only 14 ounces when she was born, Brianne was the smallest baby ever to survive at the Methodist Hospital in Dallas. As a result of her premature birth, Brianne has a number of serious medical complications. Her parents depend heavily on government benefits to provide Brianne with nursing care, physical therapy, and medical supplies such as catheters and oxygen tanks. A local Kiwanis Club raised money to help Brianne's family. However, knowing that Brianne's benefits would be endangered if they accepted this gift, her parents thought they would have to decline the offer. Instead, their attorney suggested they open a Master Pooled Trust account for Brianne. Now the trust is providing Brianne with materials Medicaid does not pay for such as diapers, eyeglasses, and visits to her grandmother.

Why Choose the Master Pooled Trust?

Expertise & Skill

The Arc is a known and trusted organization with a 60-year history of helping people with disabilities. The Arc knows the trust laws and governmental requirements, and how to best serve the needs of persons with disabilities.

Affordability & Accessibility

The Master Pooled Trust was designed with lower fees and low minimum deposits. The low fees for establishing and maintaining a sub-account are attractive to families and beneficiaries, compared to a traditional bank trust. There are low minimum and no maximum limits on an account with the Master Pooled Trust. The Arc also knows and understands the issues families with disabilities face so we make accessing the money an easy process.

Safety & Security

The Arc of Texas' simple and prompt disbursement procedures allow beneficiaries and their families to use the funds to meet the beneficiary's needs. Our Master Pooled Trust team continues to earn excellent customer service satisfaction ratings, and our investments are professionally managed by our trustee, JPMorgan Chase, one of the oldest financial institutions in the U.S.

What Trusts are Available?

There are four trusts to choose from, based on you or your family member's personal needs:

Trusts 1 & 2

Supplemental trusts that allow disbursements to be made only for supplemental needs, which include most items that are not food or housing costs.

- 1** Funded with a third party's money on behalf of an individual with a disability, known as a **Third Party Trust**
- 2** Funded with the beneficiary's own money, typically through personal injury settlements, SSI back-payments, inheritances, or savings accounts, known as a **Self-Settled Trust**

Trusts 3 & 4

Discretionary trusts that allow for more flexibility. If a beneficiary does not currently need to qualify for means-tested benefits, both basic support and supplemental payments may be approved.

- 3** Funded with a third party's money on behalf of an individual with a disability, known as a **Third Party Trust**
- 4** Funded with the beneficiary's own money, typically through personal injury settlements, SSI back-payments, inheritances, or savings accounts, known as a **Self-Settled Trust**

Recommended

Ethan's Story

Ethan is an active 8-year-old who has various intellectual disabilities. He is dreaming about his future. Someday he wants to work at a library and live in his own apartment. Ethan's parents are planning for his future too. They want to make sure when Ethan moves out of their home he will continue to have everything he needs to lead a happy and productive life. His parents started their planning process by opening a Master Pooled Trust account for him. They decided that in addition to funding the account through their life insurance policies, they would invest \$10,000 of their savings in the trust now so that while Ethan is growing, his trust will also have a chance to grow. This way, they know Ethan will have money available throughout his adulthood to use for any supplemental needs his job or government benefits do not provide.

How to Enroll in the Master Pooled Trust

Becoming enrolled in the Master Pooled Trust is as easy as A-B-C:

- a** ***Determine the source that will fund your family member's trust.***
The money could come from a variety of sources, such as a will, a life insurance policy, SSI back-payments, a court settlement, a gift, or even cash from a savings account.
- b** ***Determine which of four trust agreements best meets the needs of the beneficiary.***
We recommend that you seek the independent advice of an experienced estate-planning attorney or certified financial planner. The Arc can refer you to a list of attorneys throughout the state who can provide their services at reduced rates for families of persons with disabilities who need estate planning.
- c** ***Complete the Joinder Agreement.***
Download the Joinder Agreements and Fee Schedule from our website. The Joinder Agreement is the legal document needed to establish a Master Pooled Trust sub-account. The agreement takes only a few minutes to complete and must be notarized. Then you may deliver it to The Arc in person or by mail with a check for the enrollment fee, payable to The Arc of Texas.

After Funding

After the account has been funded, you will receive information and forms to help you request money from the Trust as well as quarterly statements showing the disbursements, investment performance and fees. Each year we also conduct a Satisfaction Survey and provide the results in an Annual Report.





Claudia's Story

Jorge and Teresa have specified in their wills they want to leave assets from their estate to their daughter, Claudia, who has cerebral palsy. Their attorney suggested they direct the assets into a Master Pooled Trust account so when Claudia receives her inheritance, she will remain eligible for her government benefits. However, Claudia's parents wanted assurance the money would be used in the way they intended. They decided to enroll in the trust now (even though the account would not be funded until the time of their deaths) so they can put their wishes for Claudia in writing through a legally binding Master Pooled Trust joinder agreement.



The Arc of Texas
MASTER POOLED

trust

Achieve with us.



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Disclaimer: Federal and state law are subject to change. All information contained herein reflects current federal and state law as of December 2012.