



THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE MOVING TO SC WHEN YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH I/DD

It can be stressful when making a move to a new place, but for a family with a child who has intellectual or developmental disabilities, that stress can be overwhelming. In order to avoid as many surprises as possible, it's a good idea to gather as much information as you can before you move. We have put together a list of things to consider before making the move to South Carolina. This list is not all inclusive, but it provides a starting place as you consider making the transition to South Carolina with your loved one with special needs.

FREQUENTY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my child's Medicaid Waiver automatically transfer to South Carolina? You may be surprised to learn that Medicaid coverage and benefits cannot be switched from one state to another. You'll need to [reapply for Medicaid in South Carolina](#) and this can create big problems for individuals who require uninterrupted care. Your loved one may be receiving services via a Medicaid waiver in one state and there might not be a comparable [waiver in our state](#). If there is a comparative waiver, there may be a very long wait list for benefits. Wait lists can be several months to several years long.

What about other health care options? You'll need to research the doctors, therapists, and other [service providers](#) available and reach out to local [advocacy organizations](#) for referrals. If you have a newborn or toddler, connect with [early intervention providers](#) and become familiar with the services available in your new location.

What do I do about my child's Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits? Because SSI consists of both federal funds and state supplements, your total payment may change, based on shared living expenses (in-kind support) and differences in state programs. You'll want to contact [Social Security](#) to update them on your new location and get more information.

FREQUENTY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my Guardianship still be valid? If South Carolina hasn't signed a reciprocity agreement with the state that you're leaving, transferring guardianship can be complex. Differences may exist in definitions of capacity, limits to a guardian's authority and more. You may need to [petition for permission](#) to relocate your ward and may even be required to reapply for guardianship. Consult legal counsel in both states before you move to determine what must be done to avoid a disruption. This might be a good time to consider whether a more [limited guardianship](#), power of attorney, or [supported decision-making](#) might suffice.

Will my child's new school offer special education programs? Yes. There are federal laws that require public schools to provide a free appropriate public education ([FAPE](#)) to all children regardless of handicapping condition. [IDEA](#) is the nation's special education law. Learn more about [special education services in South Carolina here](#).

Where do I go to get a new handicapped vehicle permit? Contact the [South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles](#) for information on how to apply for a new permit.

Who do I contact to find out about special needs services and programs available? Contact the [South Carolina Department of Disabilities & Special Needs](#) for more information.

Resources You May Find Helpful

[South Carolina Department of Disabilities & Special Needs](#)

[Social Security - Change Your Address](#)

[SC DHHS - Medicaid - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Alternatives to Guardianship & Supported Decision Making](#)

[South Carolina Department of Education - State Regulations and Resources](#)