



**The Arc**  
 Oakland County  
 1641 West Big Beaver Road  
 Troy, Michigan 48084-3501

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 Oakland County

Serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1967

# The Etheridge Plan

*For family members and others interested in a comprehensive Lifetime Advocacy Program*



The Arc of Oakland County  
 1641 West Big Beaver Road  
 Troy, Michigan 48084-3501

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Office Hours:  
 Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
 Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



*Achieve with us.*

Many parents ask –  
“What Will Happen  
to my Child  
When I’m Gone?”

The Etheridge Plan offers a formal and comprehensive plan of lifetime advocacy that will provide consistent follow-up on the individual’s lifestyle while securing appropriate services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Etheridge Plan is designed to meet the needs of the individual by utilizing all available community resources. A flexible Individual Plan of Service (IPS) will be developed based on the needs of the participant and his/her family.

The Etheridge Plan exists to offer and provide a sense of security to parents and families when they themselves become disabled or are unable to handle their own affairs. When a parent of a participant has passed away, the Etheridge Plan will cooperate with remaining family members and others in a consultative capacity. The plan will ensure consistent follow-up advocacy for the person with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Oversight of the Etheridge Plan will be accomplished by a committee of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Oakland County. The program is open to Oakland County residents only.



Examples of Advocacy –  
Areas where the Etheridge Plan  
Could Provide Assistance

- Serve as a Partial Guardian or Standby Guardian, as is necessary.
- Serve as Trustee for a family trust involving an individual with intellectual and/or developmental disability.
- Retain professional investment counsel to manage the trust funds.
- Serve as a Representative Payee for governmental benefits.
- Attend the school Individualized Education Plan Team meetings.
- Attend Person-Centered Planning meetings.
- Attend work-place status and evaluation meetings.
- Visit community residential settings.
- Monitor Social Security or Supplemental Security Income matters.
- Monitor medical and dental concerns.
- Provide outreach advocacy in areas such as: transportation, recreation and human rights.
- Monitor Department of Human Services programs (e.g., Medicaid, Adult Home Help Services).
- Provide family estate planning.
- Maintain extended family contact.
- Document all activities and maintain up-to-date records.
- Mediate issues with service providers.
- Arrange for respite services.
- Other appropriate services for the individual.



Programs and Services Continuum

- Project Find /Early On®
- Special Education /Advocacy
- Financial Benefits /Entitlements
- Estate Planning and Counseling
- Person-Centered Planning Follow-Through
- Leisure-Recreational Programs

A Family’s Financial Responsibility

To enroll in the Etheridge Plan, the family of a participant must join The Arc of Oakland County. The on-going work of this organization is vital to the continued strength of the Etheridge Plan.

The cost for enrollment and continuing Etheridge Plan services will be agreed upon in the Individual Plan of Service. Families are encouraged to remember the Etheridge Plan in their estate planning. The staff at The Arc of Oakland County can offer suggestions as to how this can be done.