

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your attorney has retained our firm to assist with the preparation of testimony regarding how the disablement of your child has impacted upon his or her life. As explained in detail below, we will develop a report that summarizes the economic, vocational, psychological, social and rehabilitation implications of your child's disablement. While it is impossible to capture all of the ways in which your child's disability has impacted upon him or her, we hope to be able to report the most important ones.

There are a number of things you should know that will make you more confident of your attorney's choice of K.W. REAGLES & ASSOCIATES:

1. We have **experience**. We have been conducting analyses of the impact of disability on peoples' lives since 1969.
2. We are **qualified**. Our associates have the highest academic degrees required to practice their profession and have been recognized in courts of law as "experts" in their field.
3. We are on **your team**. Your attorney has retained us to assist **you**; we are working for you and your best interests. So that we are best able to prepare our testimony, you are encouraged to be completely candid in reporting the information we will be requesting.
4. We are **confidential**. You may share information with us knowing that it will be kept in the strictest confidence, shared only with your attorney and no one else, unless you authorize us to do so. In addition, we may not request information about you without your written authority.
5. We are **thorough**. Each aspect of your child's disability is important to the determination of the totality of loss. It is like putting together the pieces of a complex puzzle. Therefore, we will be asking you many questions and giving you an opportunity to tell us how being disabled has changed your child's life. By fitting the pieces together, we can see the picture more clearly.

THE ELEMENTS OF LOSS

As you are well aware, disability impacts upon the person disabled in several ways, some of which we have the ability to express in economic losses, while others cannot be. While your attorney is concerned primarily with establishing and proving liability (negligence) associated with the event that caused your child's disability, we are concerned with the consequences of disablement.

The losses include:

1. **Lost Earnings**. Depending upon your child's prospects for ever working, they may have lost all or part of their anticipated future earnings. Our job is to determine

whether your child has the capacity as an adult to work and, if so, in what capacity, including applicable earnings and fringe benefits.

2. **Past Medical and Allied Health Services.** In many instances your health insurance, either alone or in combination with insurance coverage, simply does not cover the entire cost of medical care, physical and occupational therapy, and a variety of other services, medications, equipment, etc. which were required for your child's care and medical rehabilitation. We will itemize and summarize all unpaid medical and allied health services and, with the consent of your attorney, include them in our report.
3. **Future Health and Rehabilitation Services.** Another element of damages is the nature and cost of all the medical and rehabilitation goods and services that your child will need over the course of his or her lifetime. We will develop a **lifecare plan** as a means of summarizing the cost of future expenses, including future residential costs.
4. **Pain and Suffering.** There are some losses which are impossible to express in dollar amounts. You know them well. Your child's feelings about themselves with their disability; the changing nature of their role within the family; the reaction they get from relatives, friends and others; the frustration at not being able to do things they once did; and much more. We'll talk about such things and attempt to illustrate how their disability has impacted upon their life in ways which cannot be expressed in dollars.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

[] 1. **Personal History**

- [] Your **family**, including parents and siblings, their education, work history, health status, etc.
- [] Your child's **brothers and sisters**, including elementary and secondary education, specific skill training, community college and other college education, trade schools, etc.

[] 2. **Employment History**

- [] **Job history**, if they ever worked, from most recent job backward, including employer, location (address) and job title;
- [] **Earnings history**, i.e., hourly or annual earnings associated with each job;
- [] Sources of **supplemental earnings or support** (a second job, income from hobbies, and the like), including the source and amount of such earnings.
- [] Have you used **personal resources**, including savings, borrowed against insurance policies, sold personal property or real estate, or borrowed from family or friends to meet medical expenses? If so, itemize by type and amount.

- [] 3. **Household Services**
- [] What sorts of things did your child do around the house?
 - [] What was a typical week like for your child? When did he or she get up? Go to bed? What did they do between those times? How were weekends different? How have their activities changed?
- [] 4. **Hobbies and Interests:** What did your child do before their disablement?
- [] athletic pursuits, e.g., fishing, hunting, bowling, hiking, running, etc;
 - [] collections, e.g., coins, stamps, sports cards, etc.;
 - [] crafts, e.g., painting, knitting, leather work, etc.

 - [] hobbies, e.g., playing a musical instrument, woodworking, gardening, training dogs, riding horses, etc; and
 - [] Do you have any special gifts for talents, including ability to paint or play a musical instrument, sing well, be very athletic, etc.?
- [] 5. **Past Medical and Allied Medical Service Expenses**
- [] Are there unpaid hospital, doctor, or other medical bills? If so, itemize by type and amount.
 - [] Are there unpaid allied health bills, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, chiropractic services, and the like? If so, itemize by type and amount.
 - [] Are there any other unpaid bills associated with your child's disablement? If so, what are they, again by type and amount?
- [] 6. **Future Health and Rehabilitation Services**
- [] Have you been told that your child will need additional medical services, such as surgery, prosthesis, orthosis, or therapy? If so, itemize by type of service, who recommended the service, and any other information you may provide.
 - [] Do you have hopes of your child working? If so, what services, equipment, etc. would they need to be able to do so? Describe in detail.
 - [] What's on your "wish list"? What do you need to make your and your child's life more comfortable? Make a list of problems he or she may have which could be eliminated with special equipment, adaptive and assistive devices, architectural modifications, a modified vehicle, instruction or training, special tools, and the like.

[] 7. **Personal Reactions to Disablement**

- [] Describe how your child feels about themselves with their disability (if you know).
- [] Does your child have chronic pain? If so, how does it impact upon their life?
- [] Describe how your child's relations have changed with friends and relatives, including the number and quality of such relationships.
- [] Describe your concern for the future. What do you worry about for the years to come? Where do you see your child in 5 or 10 years? As an adult?
- [] In what other ways has becoming disabled changed your child's life?
- [] Is there anything else you would like for us to know that we haven't asked?
- [] Describe how your role has changed as a parent.

We will be getting together soon to discuss the nature of your child's disability and how it has impacted upon their life. Someone from our office will contact you or your attorney to arrange a mutually convenient time and place for the interview. In the meantime, please call me at (315) 471-6944 if you have any questions regarding our services. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

K. W. REAGLES & ASSOCIATES

Kenneth W. Reagles, Ph.D.

KWR:cw