

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I continue to manage the matters for my child with special needs after he/she is 21 years old?

Your child is considered an adult when he/she turns 21 years old. If he/she is assessed to lack mental capacity to manage his/her own matters, you will need to apply to Court for authority to help him/her manage his/her personal welfare and property & affairs matters as his/her deputy.

2. What is the difference between a Lasting Power of Attorney and a deputyship order?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document that a person (a “Donor”), uses to appoint a trusted person(s) (a “Donee(s)”) to make decisions about his personal welfare and/or property & affairs matters on his behalf if he loses mental capacity. Your child can make an LPA if he/she is at least 21 years old and has been assessed by the certificate issuer for example, an accredited medical practitioner, lawyer or psychiatrist to have the mental capacity to make one. You may refer to the [Office of the Public Guardian’s website](#) for more information.

A deputyship order is an order made by the Court under the Mental Capacity Act appointing a person (a “deputy”) to make decisions on behalf of another person who is assessed to lack mental capacity for certain matters (a “P”). If your child has been assessed to lack mental capacity to manage his/her own matters, you will need to consider applying to be your child’s deputy.

3. What is ADAP?

ADAP aims to make it simpler and more affordable for parents of children with special needs who do not have mental capacity to manage their matters in adulthood to apply to Court to be appointed as deputies for their child. This allows parents to continue making legal decisions for their child even after he/she turns 21 years old.

ADAP is currently available in 15 SPED schools with graduating cohorts between 18 to 21 years old, 13 DACs and 4 SWs.

4. What are the criteria that I need to meet before I can be on-board ADAP?

Under ADAP the criteria are:

- i. All family members must agree for you to make the application;
- ii. You request only for standard powers which is available in the [Family Justice Court’s Integrated Family Applications Management System \(iFAMS\)](#) such as managing bank and CPF accounts, making care and

treatment decisions. If other powers are required, you have to seek your own legal advice.

5. Why is it good for me to come on-board ADAP?

ADAP is developed to make the process cheaper and easier for you when applying to be appointed as your child's deputy. The psychologist from your child's SPED school/ DAC/ SW will provide the mental capacity assessment report which will be valid for 3 years, while assistance will be provided to guide you to complete the application process.

6. Who can apply to Court to be appointed as my child's deputy?

Anyone above the age of 21 can apply to Court to be appointed as your child's deputy as long as they are able to make decisions in the best interests of your child. For children from the SPED schools/DACs/SWs, parents are usually the parties who will make the application.

7. What are some decisions that I can or cannot make for my child under the court order?

The court order will state the matters that you can help your child to manage. In general, you can make decisions with regard to your child's personal welfare and property & affairs matters. It is important to note that you have the responsibility to ensure that decisions are made with the child's best interest in mind and to maintain his/her personal rights at all times.

8. Do we need to make all decisions together at all times if we are appointed as our child's deputies?

It depends on the manner of appointment and authority granted by the Court where you may need to make all decisions together (Jointly) or you can make the decision either together or separately (Jointly and Severally).

9. What happens to my child if we pass away or lose mental capacity in future?

You can appoint a family member or friend to be your child's successor deputy so that he/she can continue to manage your child's matters if you pass on or lose mental capacity. However, if you do not have anyone to appoint as your child's successor deputy, you may consider engaging a professional deputy to manage your child's matters in the future. A professional deputy includes professionals such as lawyers and accountants, and licensed trust companies, that are registered with the Public Guardian. More information about Professional Deputy can be found on [Office of the Public Guardian's website](#).

10. Can my child who is a current SPED school student but not graduating this year, benefit from ADAP?

ADAP has been extended to 15 SPED schools and your child will be able to benefit from ADAP in the year he/she graduates. For now, if you are the legal guardian of your child, you are still able to make decisions on his or her behalf until he/she turns 21 years old.

11. Can my child who has already graduated from SPED school benefit from ADAP?

ADAP is currently offered to graduating SPED school students as they are still in school and their mental capacity can be assessed by the school psychologists as part of routine evaluations.

ADAP has also been currently extended to 13 DACs and 4 SWs.

For families who are not in services providing ADAP and are keen to represent yourself in your deputyship application, you may:

- i. Approach any of the doctors listed in the Enabling Guide's [Service Directory](#) to enquire on their charges; and
- ii. One of the One Stop Centres (i.e. [AMKFSC Community Services](#) or [the Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services](#)) for guidance in your deputyship application.

You may wish to engage a lawyer or approach the [Legal Aid Bureau](#) if you would like to apply for a deputyship order. For general advice on deputyship matters, you may wish to approach the [Law Society's Community Legal Clinics](#) or other free legal clinics in Singapore.

12. Do parents still need to get a medical report for their child if the SPED school/DAC/SW psychologist has already provided an assessment of the child's mental capacity?

Parents do not need to further provide a medical report as the Mental Capacity Assessment Form (MCA Form) completed by the SPED school/DAC/SW psychologist is sufficient. However, the MCA form completed by the SPED school/DAC/SW psychologist is only valid for 3 years. If an application is not made within the validity period, the child will need to be reassessed. Any registered medical practitioner can conduct the mental capacity assessment.

13. How much would the application cost?

Parents would previously pay around \$3,000 to \$9,000 for their deputyship application to the Courts. Under ADAP, the cost is reduced as:

- i. The mental capacity assessment reports prepared by the SPED Schools, DACS and SWs are accepted in place of the medical report; and
- ii. Parents would make their deputyship application through iFAMS.

14. Can my relative or friend who lacks mental capacity / is unwell / is disabled be on ADAP as well?

ADAP caters specifically to the SPED school graduating students and clients in some DACs and SWs who were born with severe autism and/or intellectual disability.

If you require assistance with deputyship applications for your relative or friend and they are keen to represent themselves in their deputyship application, you may:

- i. Approach any of the doctors listed in the Enabling Guide's [Service Directory](#) to enquire on their charges; and
- ii. One of the One Stop Centres (i.e. [AMKFSC Community Services](#) or [the Society of Sheng Hong Welfare Services](#)) for guidance in their deputyship application.

Alternatively, you may wish to engage a lawyer or approach the [Legal Aid Bureau](#). For general advice on deputyship matters, you may wish to approach the [Law Society's Community Legal Clinics](#) or other free legal clinics in Singapore.

15. Who can I contact for ADAP?

Please contact your child's SPED school/DAC/SW social worker for more information.

Source: <https://www.msf.gov.sg/policies/Pages/ADAP.aspx>

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