Chapter 182-516 WAC

TRUSTS, ANNUITIES, AND LIFE ESTATES—EFFECT ON MEDICAL PROGRAMS

WAC

182-516-0001 Definitions.
182-516-0100 Trusts.
182-516-0200 Annuities established prior to April 1, 2009.
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WAC 182-516-0001 Definitions. "Annuitant" means a person or entity that receives the income from an annuity.

"Annuity" means a policy, certificate or contract that is an agreement between two parties in which one party pays a lump sum to the other, and the other party agrees to guarantee payment of a set amount of money over a set amount of time. The annuity may be purchased at one time or over a set period of time and may be bought individually or with a group. It may be revocable or irrevocable. The party guaranteeing payment can be an:

(1) Individual; or

(2) Insurer or similar body licensed and approved to do business in the jurisdiction in which the annuity is established.

"Beneficiary" means an individual(s) designated in the trust who benefits from the trust. The beneficiary can also be called the grantee. The beneficiary and the grantor may be the same person.

"Designated for medical expenses" means the trustee may use the trust to pay the medical expenses of the beneficiary. The amount of the trust that is designated for medical expenses is considered an available resource to the beneficiary. Payments are a third party resource.

"Disbursement" or **"distribution"** means any payment from the principal or proceeds of a trust, annuity, or life estate to the beneficiary or to someone on their behalf.

"Discretion of the trustee" means the trustee may decide what portion (up to the entire amount) of the principal of the trust will be made available to the beneficiary.

"Exculpatory clause" means there is some language in the trust that legally limits the authority of the trustee to distribute funds from a trust if the distribution would jeopardize eligibility for government programs including medicaid.

"For the sole benefit of" means that for a transfer to a spouse, blind or disabled child, or disabled individual, the transfer is arranged in such a way that no individual or entity except the spouse, blind or disabled child, or disabled individual can benefit from the assets transferred in any way, whether at the time of the transfer or at any time during the life of the primary beneficiary.

"Grantor" means an individual who uses his assets or funds to create a trust. The grantor may also be the beneficiary.

"Income beneficiary" means the person receiving the payments may only get the proceeds of the trust. The principal is not available for disbursements. If this term is used, the principal of the trust is an unavailable resource.

"Irrevocable" means the legal instrument cannot be changed or terminated in any way by anyone.

"Life estate" means an ownership interest in a property only during the lifetime of the person(s) owning the life estate. In some cases, the ownership interest lasts only until the occurrence of some specific event, such as remarriage of the life estate owner. A life estate owner may not have the legal title or deed to the property, but may have rights to possession, use, income and/or selling their life estate interest in the property.

"Principal" means the assets that make up the entity. The principal includes income earned on the principal that has not been distributed. The principal is also called the corpus.

"Proceeds" means the income earned on the principal. It is usually interest, dividends, or rent. When the proceeds are not distributed, they become part of the principal.

"Pooled trust" means a trust meeting all of the following conditions:

(1) It contains funds of more than one disabled individual, combined for investment and management purposes;

(2) It is for the sole benefit of disabled individuals (as determined by SSA criteria);

(3) It was created by the disabled individuals, their parents, grandparents, legal guardians, or by a court;

(4) It is managed by a nonprofit association with a separate account maintained for each beneficiary; and

(5) It contains a provision that upon the death of the individual, for any funds not retained by the trust, the state will receive all amounts remaining in the individual's separate account up to the total amount of medicaid paid on behalf of that individual.

"Revocable" means the legal instrument can be changed or terminated by the grantor, or by petitioning the court. A legal instrument that is called irrevocable, but that can be terminated if some action is taken, is revocable for the purposes of this section.

"Sole-benefit trust" means an irrevocable trust established for the sole-benefit of a spouse, blind or disabled child, or disabled individual. In a sole-benefit trust no one but the individual named in the trust receives benefit from the trust in any way either at the time the trust is established or at any time during the life of the primary beneficiary. A sole-benefit trust may allow for reasonable costs to trustees for management of the trust and reasonable costs for investment of trust funds.

"Special needs trust" means an irrevocable trust meeting all of the following conditions:

(1) It is for the sole benefit of a disabled individual (as determined by SSA criteria) under sixty-five years old;

(2) It was created by the individual's parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or by a court; and

(3) It contains a provision that upon the death of the individual, the state will receive the amounts remaining in the trust up to the total amount of medicaid paid on behalf of the individual.

"Testamentary trust" means a trust created by a will from the estate of a deceased person. The trust is paid out according to the will.

"Trust" means property (such as a home, cash, stocks, or other assets) is transferred to a trustee for the benefit of the grantor or another party. The department includes in this definition any other legal instrument similar to a trust. For annuities, refer to WAC 388-561-0200.

"Trustee" means an individual, bank, insurance company or any other entity that manages and administers the trust for the beneficiary.

"Undue hardship" means the client would be unable to meet shelter, food, clothing, and health care needs if the department applied the transfer of assets penalty.

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WAC 182-516-0100 Trusts. (1) The department determines how trusts affect eligibility for medical programs.

(2) The department disregards trusts established, on or before April 6, 1986, for the sole benefit of a client who lives in an intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded (ICMR).

(3) For trusts established on or before August 10, 1993 the department counts the following:

(a) If the trust was established by the client, client's spouse, or the legal guardian, the maximum amount of money (payments) allowed to be distributed under the terms of the trust is considered available income to the client if all of the following conditions apply:

(i) The client could be the beneficiary of all or part of the payments from the trust;

(ii) The distribution of payments is determined by one or more of the trustees; and

(iii) The trustees are allowed discretion in distributing payments to the client.

(b) If an irrevocable trust doesn't meet the conditions under subsection (3)(a) then it is considered either:

(i) An **unavailable** resource, if the client established the trust for a beneficiary other than the client or the client's spouse; or

(ii) An **available** resource in the amount of the trust's assets that:

(A) The client could access; or

(B) The trustee distributes as actual payments to the client and the department applies the transfer of assets rules of WAC 388-513-1363, 388-513-1364 or 388-513-1365.

(c) If a revocable trust doesn't meet the description under subsection (3)(a):

(i) The full amount of the trust is an available resource of the client if the trust was established by:

(A) The client;

(B) The client's spouse, and the client lived with the spouse; or

(C) A person other than the client or the client's spouse only to the extent the client had access to the assets of the trust.

(ii) Only the amount of money actually paid to the client from the trust is an available resource when the trust was established by:

(A) The client's spouse, and the client did not live with the spouse; or

(B) A person other than the client or the client's spouse; and

(C) Payments were distributed by a trustee of the trust.

(iii) The department considers the funds a resource, not income.

(4) For trusts established on or after August 11, 1993:

(a) The department considers a trust as if it were established by the client when:

(i) The assets of the trust, as defined under WAC 388-470-0005, are at least partially from the client;

(ii) The trust is not established by will; and

(iii) The trust was established by:

(A) The client or the client's spouse;

(B) A person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of, or on behalf of, the client or the client's spouse; or

(C) A person, including a court or administrative body, acting at the direction of or upon the request of the client or the client's spouse.

(b) Only the assets contributed to the trust by the client are available to the client when part of the trust assets were contributed by any other person.

(c) The department does not consider:

(i) The purpose for establishing a trust;

(ii) Whether the trustees have, or exercise, any discretion under the terms of the trust;

(iii) Restrictions on when or whether distributions may be made from the trust; or

(iv) Restrictions on the use of distributions from the trust.

(d) For a revocable trust established as described under subsection (4)(a) of this section:

(i) The full amount of the trust is an available resource of the client;

(ii) Payments from the trust to or for the benefit of the client are income of the client; and

(iii) Any payments from the trust, other than payments described under subsection (4)(d)(ii), are considered a transfer of client assets.

(e) For an irrevocable trust established as described under subsection (4)(a) of this section:

(i) Any part of the trust from which payment can be made to or for the benefit of the client is an available resource. When payment is made from such irrevocable trusts, we will consider the payments as:

(A) Income to the client when payment is to or for the client's benefit; or

(B) The transfer of an asset when payment is made to any person for any purpose other than the client's benefit;

(ii) A trust from which a payment cannot be made to or for the client's benefit is a transfer of assets. For such a trust, the transfer of assets is effective the date:

(A) The trust is established; or

(B) The client is prevented from receiving benefit, if this is after the trust is established.

(iii) The value of the trust includes any payments made from the trust after the effective date of the transfer.

(5) For trusts established on or after August 1, 2003:

(a) The department considers a trust as if it were established by the client when:

(i) The assets of the trust, as defined under WAC 388-470-0005, are at least partially from the client or the client's spouse;

(ii) The trust is not established by will; and

(iii) The trust was established by:

(A) The client or the client's spouse;

(B) A person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of, or on behalf of, the client or the client's spouse; or

(C) A person, including a court or administrative body, acting at the direction of or upon the request of the client or the client's spouse.

(b) Only the assets contributed other than by will to the trust by either the client or the client's spouse are available to the client or the client's spouse when part of the trust assets were contributed by persons other than the client or the client's spouse.

(c) The department does not consider:

(i) The purpose for establishing a trust;

(ii) Whether the trustees have, or exercise, any discretion under the terms of the trust;

(iii) Restrictions on when or whether distributions may be made from the trust; or

(iv) Restrictions on the use of the distributions from the trust.

(d) For a revocable trust established as described under subsection (5)(a) of this section:

(i) The full amount of the trust is an available resource of the client;

(ii) Payments from the trust to or for the benefit of the client are income of the client; and

(iii) Any payments from the trust, other than payments described under subsection (5)(d)(ii), are considered a transfer of client assets.

(e) For an irrevocable trust established as described under subsection (5)(a) of this section:

(i) Any part of the trust from which payment can be made to or for the benefit of the client or the client's spouse is an available resource. When payment is made from such irrevocable trusts, the department will consider the payment as:

(A) Income to the client or the client's spouse when payment is to or for the benefit of either the client or the client's spouse; or

(B) The transfer of an asset when payment is made to any person for any purpose other than the benefit of the client or the client's spouse;

(ii) A trust from which a payment cannot be made to or for the benefit of the client or client's spouse is a transfer of assets. For such a trust, the transfer of assets is effective the date:

(A) The trust is established; or

(B) The client or client's spouse is prevented from receiving benefit, if this is after the trust is established.

(iii) The value of the trust includes any payments made from the trust after the effective date of the transfer.

(6) Trusts established on or after August 11, 1993 are not considered available resources if they contain the assets of either:

(a) A person sixty-four years of age or younger who is disabled as defined by SSI criteria (as described in WAC 388-475-0050) and the trust:

(i) Is established for the sole benefit of this person by their parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or a court; and

(ii) Stipulates that the state will receive all amounts remaining in the trust upon the death of the client, up to the amount of medicaid spent on the client's behalf; or

(b) A person regardless of age, who is disabled as defined by SSI criteria (as described in WAC 388-475-0050), and the trust meets the following criteria:

(i) It is irrevocable;

(ii) It is established and managed by a nonprofit association;

(iii) A separate account is maintained for each beneficiary of the trust but for purposes of investment and management of funds the trust pools the funds in these accounts;

(iv) Accounts in the trust are established solely for the benefit of the disabled individual as defined by the SSI program;

(v) Accounts in the trust are established by:

(A) The individual;

(B) The individual's spouse, where the spouse is acting in the place of or on behalf of the individual;

(C) The individual's parent, grandparent, legal guardian;

(D) A person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of or on behalf of the individual or the individual's spouse; or

(E) A person, including a court or administrative body, acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or the individual's spouse.

(vi) It stipulates that either:

(A) The state will receive all amounts remaining in the client's separate account upon the death of the client, up to the amount of medicaid spent on the client's behalf; or

(B) The funds will remain in the trust to benefit other disabled beneficiaries of the trust.

(7) Trusts established on or after August 1, 2003 are not considered available resources if they contain the assets of either:

(a) A person sixty-four years of age or younger who is disabled as defined by SSI criteria (as described in WAC 388-475-0050) and the trust:

(i) Is irrevocable;

(ii) Is established for the sole benefit of this person by their parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or a court; and

(iii) Stipulates that the state will receive all amounts remaining in the trust upon the death of the client, the end of the disability, or the termination of the trust, whichever comes first, up to the amount of medicaid spent on the client's behalf; or

(b) A person regardless of age, who is disabled as defined by SSI criteria (as described in WAC 388-475-0050), and the trust meets the following criteria:

(i) It is irrevocable;

(ii) It is established and managed by a nonprofit association;

(iii) A separate account is maintained for each beneficiary of the trust but for purposes of investment and management of funds the trust pools the funds in these accounts;

(iv) Accounts in the trust are established solely for the benefit of the disabled individual as defined by the SSI program;

(v) Accounts in the trust are established by:

(A) The individual;

(B) The individual's spouse, where the spouse is acting in the place of or on behalf of the individual;

(C) The individual's parent, grandparent, legal guardian;

(D) A person, including a court or administrative body, with legal authority to act in place of or on behalf of the individual or the individual's spouse; or

(E) A person, including a court or administrative body, acting at the direction or upon the request of the individual or the individual's spouse.

(vi) It stipulates that either:

(A) The state will receive all amounts remaining in the client's separate account upon the death of the client, the end of the disability, or the termination of the trust, whichever comes first, up to the amount of medicaid spent on the client's behalf; or

(B) The funds will remain in the trust to benefit other disabled beneficiaries of the trust.

(8) Trusts described in subsection (6)(a) and (7)(a) continue to be considered an unavailable resource even after the individual becomes age sixty-five. However, additional transfers made to the trust after the individual reaches age sixty-five would be considered an available resource and would be subject to a transfer penalty.

(9) The department does not apply a penalty period to transfers into a trust described in subsections (6)(b) and (7)(b) if the trust is established for the benefit of a disabled individual under age sixty-five as described in WAC 388-513-1363 and 388-513-1364 and the transfer is made to the trust before the individual reaches age sixty-five.

(10) The department considers any payment from a trust to the client to be unearned income. Except for trusts described in subsection (6), the department considers any payment to or for the benefit of either the client or client's spouse as described in subsections (4)(e) and (5)(e) to be unearned income.

(11) The department will only count income received by the client from trusts and not the principal, if:

(a) The beneficiary has no control over the trust; and

(b) It was established with funds of someone other than the client, spouse or legally responsible person.

(12) This section does not apply when a client establishes that undue hardship exists.

(13) WAC 388-513-1363, 388-513-1364, 388-513-1365, and 388-513-1366 apply under this section when the department determines that a trust or a portion of a trust is a transfer of assets.

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WAC 182-516-0200 Annuities established prior to April 1, 2009. (1) The department determines how annuities affect eligibility for medical programs.

(2) A revocable annuity is considered an available resource.

(3) An irrevocable annuity established prior to May 1, 2001 is not an available resource when issued by an individual, insurer, or other body licensed and approved to do business in the jurisdiction in which the annuity is established.

(4) The income from an irrevocable annuity, meeting the requirements of this section, is considered in determining eligibility and the amount of participation in the total cost of care. The annuity itself is not considered a resource or income.

(5) An annuity established on or after May 1, 2001 and before April 1, 2009 will be considered an available resource unless it:

(a) Is irrevocable;

(b) Is paid out in equal monthly amounts within the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant;

(c) Is issued by an individual, insurer or other body licensed and approved to do business in the jurisdiction in which the annuity is established; and

(d) Names the department as the beneficiary of the remaining funds up to the total of medicaid funds spent on the client during the client's lifetime. This subsection only applies if the annuity is in the client's name.

(6) An irrevocable annuity established on or after May 1, 2001 and before April 1, 2009 that is not scheduled to be paid out in equal monthly amounts, can still be considered an unavailable resource if:

(a) The full pay out is within the actuarial life expectancy of the client; and

(b) The client:

(i) Changes the scheduled pay out into equal monthly payments within the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant; or

(ii) Requests that the department calculate and budget the payments as equal monthly payments within the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant. The income from the annuity remains unearned income to the annuitant.

(7) An irrevocable annuity, established prior to May 1, 2001 that is scheduled to pay out beyond the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant, will be considered a resource transferred without adequate consideration at the time it was purchased. A penalty period of ineligibility, determined according to WAC 388-513-1365, may be imposed equal to the amount of the annuity to be paid out in excess of the annuitant's actuarial life expectancy.

(8) An irrevocable annuity, established on or after May 1, 2001 and before April 1, 2009 that is scheduled to pay out beyond the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant, will be considered a resource transferred without adequate consideration at the time it was purchased. A penalty may be imposed

equal to the amount of the annuity to be paid out in excess of the annuitant's actuarial life expectancy. The penalty for a client receiving:

(a) Long-term care benefits will be a period of ineligibility (see WAC 388-513-1365).

(b) Other medical benefits will be ineligible in the month of application.

(9) An irrevocable annuity is considered unearned income when the annuitant is:

(a) The client;

(b) The spouse of the client;

(c) The blind or disabled child, as defined in WAC 388-475-0050 (b) and (c), of the client;

(d) A person designated to use the annuity for the sole benefit of the client, client's spouse, or a blind or disabled child, as defined in WAC 388-475-0050 (b) and (c), of the client.

(10) An annuity is not considered an available resource when there is a joint owner, co-annuitant or an irrevocable beneficiary who will not agree to allow the annuity to be cashed, UNLESS the joint owner or irrevocable beneficiary is the community spouse. In the case of a community spouse, the cash surrender value of the annuity is considered an available resource and counts toward the maximum community spouse resource allowance.

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WAC 182-516-0201 Annuities established on or after April 1, 2009. (1) The department determines how annuities affect eligibility for medical programs. Applicants and recipients of medicaid must disclose to the state any interest the applicant or spouse has in an annuity.

(2) A revocable annuity is considered an available resource.

(3) The following annuities are not considered an available resource or a transfer of a resource as described in WAC 388-513-1363, if the annuity meets the requirements described in (4)(d), (e) and (f) of this subsection:

(a) An annuity described in subsection (b) or (q) of section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(b) Purchased with proceeds from an account or trust described in subsection (a), (c), or (p) of section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(c) Purchased with proceeds from a simplified employee pension (within the meaning of section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986); or

(d) Purchased with proceeds from a Roth IRA described in section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(4) The purchase of an annuity not described in subsection (3) established on or after April 1, 2009, will be considered as an available resource unless it:

(a) Is immediate, irrevocable, nonassignable; and

(b) Is paid out in equal monthly amounts with no deferral and no balloon payments:

(i) Over a term equal to the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant; or

(ii) Over a term that is not less than five years if the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant is at least five years; or

(iii) Over a term not less than the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant, if the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant is less than five years.

(iv) Actuarial life expectancy shall be determined by tables that are published by the office of the chief actuary of the social security administration (http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/STATS/table4c6.html).

(c) Is issued by an individual, insurer or other body licensed and approved to do business in the jurisdiction in which the annuity is established;

(d) Names the state as the remainder beneficiary when the purchaser of the annuity is the annuitant and is an applicant for or recipient of medicaid, or a community spouse of an applicant for or recipient of long-term care or waiver services:

(i) In the first position for the total amount of medical assistance paid for the individual, including both long-term care services and waiver services; or

(ii) In the second position for the total amount of medical assistance paid for the individual, including both long-term care services and waiver services, if there is a community spouse, or a minor or disabled child as defined in WAC 388-475-0050 (b) and (c) who is named as the beneficiary in the first position.

(e) Names the state as the beneficiary upon the death of the community spouse for the total amount of medical assistance paid on behalf of the individual at any time of any payment from the annuity if a community spouse is the annuitant;

(f) Names the state as the beneficiary in the first position for the total amount of medical assistance paid on behalf of the individual at the time of any payment from the annuity, including both long-term care services and waiver services, unless the annuitant has a community spouse or minor or disabled child, as defined in WAC 388-475-0050 (b) and (c). If the annuitant has a community spouse or minor or disabled child, such spouse or child may be named as beneficiary in the first position, and the state shall be named as beneficiary in the second position:

(i) If the community spouse, minor or disabled child, or representative for a child named as beneficiary is in the first position as described in (f) and transfers his or her right to receive payments from the annuity for less than fair market value, then the state shall become the beneficiary in the first position.

(5) If the annuity is not considered a resource, the stream of income produced by the annuity is considered available income.

(6) An irrevocable annuity established on or after April 1, 2009 that meets all of the requirements of subsection (4) except that it is not immediate or scheduled to be paid out in equal monthly amounts will not be treated as a resource if:

(a) The full pay out is within the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant; and

(b) The annuitant:

(i) Changes the scheduled pay out into equal monthly payments within the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant; or

(ii) Requests that the department calculate and budget the payments as equal monthly payments within the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant beginning with the month of eligibility. The income from the annuity remains unearned income to the annuitant.

(7) An irrevocable annuity, established on or after April 1, 2009 that is scheduled to pay out beyond the actuarial life expectancy of the annuitant, will be considered a resource.

(8) An irrevocable annuity established on or after April 1, 2009 that meets all of the requirements of subsection (4) or (5) is considered unearned income when the annuitant is:

(a) The client;

(b) The spouse of the client;

(c) The blind or disabled child, as defined in WAC 388-475-0050 (b) and (c), of the client; or

(d) A person designated to use the annuity for the sole benefit of the client, client's spouse, or a blind or disabled child of the client.

(9) An annuity is not considered an available resource when there is a joint owner, co-annuitant or an irrevocable beneficiary who will not agree to allow the annuity to be cashed, unless the joint owner or irrevocable beneficiary is the community spouse. In the case of a community spouse, the cash surrender value of the annuity is considered an available resource and counts toward the maximum community spouse resource allowance.

(10) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the department from denying eligibility for medical assistance for an individual based on the income or resources derived from an annuity other than an annuity described in subsections (3), (4), and (5).

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WAC 182-516-0300 Life estates. (1) The department determines how life estates affect eligibility for medical programs.

(2) A life estate is an excluded resource when either of the following conditions apply:

(a) It is property other than the home, which is essential to self-support or part of an approved plan for self-support; or

(b) It cannot be sold due to the refusal of joint life estate owner(s) to sell.

(3) Remaining interests of excluded resources in subsection (2) may be subject to transfer of asset penalties under WAC 388-513-1363, 388-513-1364 and 388-513-1365.

(4) Only the client's proportionate interest in the life estate is considered when there is more than one owner of the life estate.

(5) A client or a client's spouse, who transfers legal ownership of a property to create a life estate, may be subject to transfer-of-resource penalties under WAC 388-513-1363, 388-513-1364 and 388-513-1365.

(6) When the property of a life estate is transferred for less than fair market value (FMV), the department treats the transfer in one of two ways:

(a) For noninstitutional medical, the value of the uncompensated portion of the resource is combined with other non-excluded resources; or

(b) For institutional medical, a period of ineligibility will be established according to WAC 388-513-1363, 388-513-1364 and 388-513-1365.

[13-01-017, recodified as WAC 182-516-0300, filed 12/7/12, effective 1/1/13. Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.353 (2)(d), 74.08.090, and chapters 74.09, 74.04 RCW. 08-11-047, § 388-561-0300, filed 5/15/08, effective 6/15/08. Statutory Authority: RCW 74.04.050, 74.08.090, and 74.09.500. 01-06-043, § 388-561-0300, filed 3/5/01, effective 5/1/01.]