

MetDESK and United Cerebral Palsy Announce Relationship

MetDESK(R), MetLife's Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids, has announced a new relationship with United Cerebral Palsy (UCP), a national organization serving and advocating for people with disabilities. MetDESK will work with UCP and its 100 affiliates to provide important resources and financial planning services to their members.

"MetDESK is a great addition to the services we currently offer to people with disabilities and their families," said Stephen Bennett, president and CEO of United Cerebral Palsy. "Through MetDESK, our affiliates will be more informed about the complicated legal and financial issues they may face so that they can take the proper steps to protect their rights."

Launched in 1998, MetDESK (www.metlife.com/desk <<http://www.metlife.com/desk>>) focuses on the concerns of families with children and other dependents with special needs. Through a nationwide network of specialists, MetDESK provides customized solutions to meet families' financial needs.

"We are excited to be working with an organization of such caliber as United Cerebral Palsy," said Nadine O. Vogel, vice president, Marketing, and founder of MetDESK. "The services that UCP provides are so important to people with disabilities. We are proud to help the organization's efforts by offering MetDESK as a resource to its affiliates."

MetDESK specialists undergo extensive training on financial and legal issues affecting families with children or dependents with special needs. A unique strength of MetDESK is that many of the specialists are either parents of children with special needs or have close relatives with special needs. Therefore, they have first hand knowledge of the issues these families encounter.

The need for such customized financial planning hails from a federal law that states that if a person with special needs has more than \$2,000 in assets, he or she automatically loses eligibility for most government benefits. Very often, these benefits are vital to providing financial assistance and healthcare coverage.

United Cerebral Palsy is one of the nation's leading organizations serving and advocating for the more than 54 million Americans with disabilities. Most UCP consumers are people with disabilities other than cerebral palsy. Through its nationwide network, United Cerebral Palsy offers services to individuals, families and communities such as job training and placement, physical therapy, individual and family support, early intervention, social and recreation programs, community living, state and local referrals, and instruction on how to use technology to perform everyday tasks. For more information, visit www.ucp.org or call (800) 872-5827.

For more information about MetDESK, please call 1-877-MetDESK (1-877-638-3375).