

Happy Father's Day!



Grateful for my LIFE mate

So - I am a little late again BUT it was a busy month. June is always like this. Graduations, our anniversary and our daughter's birthday. For years we hustled to get through this month. This year for the first time in a long time we simply enjoyed our time. My husband/LIFE mate and I traveled to see his great aunt, Orpah Lee Jackson for her birthday which happened to fall on the weekend of Father's Day. We witnessed her turn 105 years old (Unfortunately, she passed away shortly after our visit.) As I watched my husband hold his aunt's hand, massage her legs, give her his undivided attention and love I began thinking how grateful I am for him and for women like Orpah who poured into my husband. You see many people do not see the immense stress and overwhelming responsibility he has shouldered over the years taking care of so many people. Taking care of a child on the Autism Spectrum is heavy for sure but taking care of a child on the Autism Spectrum, while taking care of your family, mother, your mother-in-law, countless friends who rely on you, your business, and still contributing to your community requires acknowledgement! The fiscal cost and emotional toll



changes families. Believe me I have counseled many.

Autism Treatment Expenses: Unveiling the Cost - Master Mind Behavior

Learn
More



My LIFE mate has a pure heart and our family thrives because of his commitment to us. Happy Father's Day!

Florida Legislative Session

What is the Florida Legislative Session?

"The Florida Legislature meets in session every year for sixty consecutive days. A regular session of the legislature shall convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March of each odd-numbered year, and on the second Tuesday after the first Monday in January of each even-numbered year. There are other ways in which the Legislature may be convened as outlined in Article III, Section 3, of the Florida Constitution, including special sessions, which may be called either by the Governor; or by a joint proclamation issued by the Senate President and House Speaker. An extension of regular session or special session requires a three-fifths vote of each house."

Information about the Florida Senate

Read All About
It



This year's session was incredibly long and objectively challenging. However, for persons living with and loving someone with a disability there were key wins. *House Bill 1103* mandates more transparency and support with the Agency for Person with Disabilities, ("APD") Generally-not always-when persons with disabilities reach out to the APD they are met with many obstacles.

- The wait time
- How to provide documentation
- Understanding services
- Utilizing services

House Bill 1103 Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities provides transition support for persons aging into adulthood and gives more support for persons with invisible disabilities such as Autism Spectrum Disorder.

House Bill 1103 (2025) - The Florida Senate

CS/CS/HB 1103: Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

[Learn More About House Bill
1103](#)

Another WIN is *House Bill 447*. The bill updates requirements on disability education on Autism and Intellectual Disabilities.

Grades 4–6: Information about autism spectrum disorder.

Grades 10–12: Information about learning and intellectual disabilities.

As a parent of a person on the spectrum, I am constantly asked to explain what Autism is and how an intellectual disability is different from Autism. Educating young people will decrease bullying, lead to more understanding and acceptance and ultimately impact future generations. THANK YOU!

House Bill 447 (2025) - The Florida Senate

CS/HB 447 — Disability History and Awareness Instruction by Student Academic Success Subcommittee and Rep. Salzman and others

[Learn More About House Bill
447](#)

Senate Bill 1102 School Readiness Program is yet ANOTHER WIN! One of the largest obstacles of caring for a loved one with Autism Spectrum Disorder is working within the education system. While there are certainly well-meaning educators, it is OVERWHELMING to just share the hurdles of implementing Individual Education Plans and other supporting services. This bill provides for some alternatives to accessing services including an Individualized Family Support Plan. Having the supportive services during this crucial period of acceptance will help families lead healthier lives.

House Bill 1102 (2025) - The Florida Senate

CS/HB 1102 — CS/SB 1102: School Readiness Program. GENERAL BILL by Fiscal Policy ; Calatayud School Readiness Program

[Learn More About House Bill
1102](#)

Just when you think you are alone- Someone LENDS a hand!

I was at a Florida Bar Association Conference this past week and it was lovely to see old friends and connect on how we can support our profession. As I was sharing some concerns about next level support for our daughter to a non-lawyer at the conference I was reminded that I am NEVER alone. My new colleague, Tashara Cooper, also supports a loved one with a disability and she encouraged me to visit and utilize Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, ("FDDC") resources. I research often and sometimes forget how daunting it can be. This website is well designed and meets everyone where they are. Reviewing the content reminded me that we are not alone and there is

always someone who will lend a hand when you are open to receiving help.

"Resources Resources addressing topics of interest to individuals with developmental disabilities, their caregivers and professionals in the field."



[More Information](#)

Happy Birthday Eme!

Our daughter turned 19 years old this month. She is an incredible example of resilience, perseverance and love. Never underestimated! For her birthday she wanted to work on her craft- Voiceover acting. Watching her in her "ZONE" was impressive. We cannot wait to see her shine in this profession. Thank you Jay and Renata for helping her on her journey.



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