

Special Education LAW DAY



Advocating for your child is often a complex and sometimes counter-intuitive process. At Law Day, parents will learn the basic concepts of special education law, the importance of strategizing and how to use this knowledge to gain control of their child's education. The primary goal of Law Day: parents will become empowered IEP team members by gaining an understanding of special education law, which then can be directly applied to their child's specific needs and situation.



Thursday, May 27, 2010

8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Lunch on your own

Autism One

Westin O'Hare, 6100 North River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018

Registration

AutismOne.org

Presenters

Timothy A. Adams, Esq., special education attorney

Lynne Arnold, MA, parent

Mitchel Perlman, clinical forensic psychologist

Topics include:

- Documentation, letter writing, gathering documents
- IEP Goals
- Independent educational evaluations (IEEs)
- Extended school year services (ESY)
- When and how to use services of a special education attorney
- Stay Put
- Prior Written Notice (PWN)
- Least Restrictive Environment

#1 – IDEA 2004 Overview

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is federal law that creates civil rights and substantive protections to children with disabilities. Do you understand your school district's legal obligations to your child under federal law? Come learn the basic framework of IDEA 2004 as well as the implications of recent case law in the context of achieving a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for the special needs child.

#2 – Assessments/Evaluations

What does a thorough assessment entail? How do you know if your child's capabilities and needs have been adequately and accurately assessed? Assessing the child in all areas of suspected disability is the legal obligation of the district and usually the most important building block of the IEP. Without an accurate assessment, it can be nearly impossible to place the child in the correct program that capitalizes on his abilities. This session will explore common contradictions and misinterpretations in district assessments that result in inappropriate recommendations. The most important aspects of an independent educational evaluation as well as critical ages for assessment will be covered.

#3 – IEP Strategy

The first step to effectively controlling the IEP process is determining the appropriate strategy to gain leverage with the school district. The IEP process will be broken down into components to teach parents how to evaluate the best course of action in each situation. We will discuss how parents can more effectively respond to district objections to parental and independent expert recommendations. Techniques for forcing district personnel to fully explain their positions and district "policies" will be explored. Parents will learn how to apply these concepts to their child's individual needs and their district.

#4 – Keeping Your Child Safe: Preventing Abuse at School

What should you do if you suspect your child is being abused at school? How can abuse be prevented? This session will cover tactics for keeping your child safe, identifying warning signals, documentation and avenues for taking action.

Session #5: Questions & Answers

What does all of this information mean to advocating for your individual child? Parents are encouraged to submit their questions to integrate the lessons learned with a new plan of action.