

Attorney Checklist: Education



Enrollment, School Stability & Class Placement

- Is the child currently enrolled in school? Any truancy issues?
- Is school stability an issue now or may be in the near future? (How many schools has the child attended? Is changing schools in the child's best interest?)
- Is the youth being educated in the most appropriate school setting/placement?

Education Decision Maker

- Does the youth have an *active* education decision maker? Regular & special ed?
- If not, should the Court appoint someone? If so, who?
- What issues in particular should the Education Decision Maker address?

Academic Progress & Need for Interventions

- Does the child need additional supports in school (*e.g.*, remedial, tutoring, summer school, mental health services)
- What does the child need to be more engaged in school? (*e.g.*, areas of interest, clubs, subjects, extra-curriculars, job training corp., voch tech etc.)
- Are there any school discipline issues that need to be addressed?

Special Education Services & Need for Accommodations in School

- Is there evidence that the child needs to be evaluated for special education?
- Is the current IEP enabling the child to make meaningful progress? Is it being followed? Does child have an appropriate transition plan (starts at age 14)?
- Does the child need to be re-evaluated?
- Does the youth need accommodations in school for a physical or behavioral condition? (*e.g.*, asthma, diabetes, behavioral issues etc.)

Graduation & Transition Planning/Access to Post-Secondary

- Is the youth on track to graduate on time? Credits needed___; senior project___
- Does the youth's Independent Living & 90-day transition plan adequately address the youth's education goals and needs?
- Has the youth been apprised of his options and financial opportunities to attend college? Who will assist the youth to access to postsecondary opportunities?

Pre-Court:

Caseworkers and child should be questioned about:

- School stability (based on ed records & documented)
- School attendance & prompt enrollment
- School/classroom placement & appropriate education
- Access to remedial services, voch tech etc. as needed
- Progress towards graduation & school engagement
- School discipline issues
- Identify or recommend Education Decision Maker
- Special Education: Is the child making progress?
- Transition planning & services

In- Court:

Raise Issues, seek court intervention & request court order to address:

- School Stability
- Authorize Access to Education Records
- Appropriate School/classroom placement
- Appoint Ed. Decisionmaker
- Appoint Special Ed Decisionmaker (aka Surrogate Parent)
- Address Spec. Ed needs
- Link to Resources
- Transition/Ed Planning
- Support Youth Engagement

Post-Court:

- School attendance & appropriate placement
- Progress towards graduation
- Special Ed and School discipline issues
- Success of Education Decision Maker
- Transition planning