



Jeff Konrade-Helm, MPA
Disability Advocate

New Client Information

Thank you for expressing an interest in IDEA Services. Please read the enclosed document/s carefully before you begin to fill them out.

In order to better serve your needs, following is a list of potentially free or reduced-cost advocacy services for which you or your family member may qualify. You may want to contact them before agreeing to retain paid advocacy services.

Educational Advocacy and Developmental Disability Eligibility

Arc of Colorado or your local Arc

<http://www.thearcofco.org/localarcs.html>

8000 East Prentice Avenue
Suite D-1
Greenwood Village, CO 80111
Tel: 303.864.9334
Toll Free: 800.333.7690
Fax: 303.864.9330

The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People

<http://www.thelegalcenter.org/>

Denver

455 Sherman Street, Suite 130
Denver, Colorado 80203-4403
(303) 722-0300 Voice/TTY
(303) 722-3619 TTY
Toll Free 800-288-1376 Voice/TTY
Fax (303) 722-0720

Grand Junction

322 N. 8th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501-3406
(970) 241-6371 Voice/TTY
Toll Free 1-800-531-2105 Voice/TTY
Fax (970) 241-5324
E-mail us at tlcmail@thelegalcenter.org

Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

<http://www.ccdonline.org/>

655 Broadway, Suite 775
Denver, Colorado 80203
303.839.1775 (voice)
303.839.0015 (TTY)
303.839.1782 (fax)
800.817.1435 (voice)
877.267.1621(TTY)

E-mail Address: info@ccdonline.org

Individual Disability and Education Advocacy Services, LLC

9017 Grove Street | Westminster, CO 80031-3362
720-275-0053 | 720-379-3977_fax

jeff@SpEd-HELP.com | www.SpEd-HELP.com



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About Your Advocate: Jeff Konrade-Helm

In 1990, Jeff became the parent of a child with autism. Prior to advocating for his daughter, however, Jeff had fought for services for his older brother with developmental disabilities for nearly a decade.

In 2003, Jeff joined the staff of the Autism Society of Colorado where he made the transition to being a full-time advocate for the needs of all individuals with autism in Colorado. Among his accomplishments, he was instrumental in the creation, passage and implementation of the Children with Autism (CWA) Medicaid Waiver and Colorado's Autism Commission as well as being a policy advisor to state departments regarding disability related policies and practices. Jeff currently serves on the Governor's Vaccine Advisory Committee for Colorado (VACC) as a member of its steering committee and is the co-chair of its public awareness and education sub-committee.

Throughout his advocacy career, Jeff has successfully negotiated numerous private school placements as well as countless positive changes to IEPs including: in-district placement changes, revision of IEP goals and objectives, issues of related services such as therapies and transportation, etc. In addition to educational advocacy, Jeff has advocated on developmental disability eligibility denials/appeals, ADA-related tenant/landlord disputes and law enforcement/criminal justice issues.

Philosophy

The cornerstones of my approach toward advocacy are: Communication, Rights/Responsibilities and Respect.

Regarding communication, I have found in my experience that the lack of appropriate communication has led to the breakdown in trust that has brought families to the point of needing outside advocacy or mediation services. My practice strives to keep those lines of communication open and perhaps even improve upon them. There are some instances when legal representation is necessary. But consulting with and retaining a lawyer too soon may shut down any open channels of communication because district personnel are often instructed not to communicate directly with families on issues of the case once it has progressed to the realm of legal recourse.

Rights and responsibilities go hand-in-hand. I am a fervent advocate of individual rights but I also believe that for every right bestowed, citizens have a responsibility to exercise it judiciously. Just as students have the right to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) and to equal protection under the law; families have responsibilities to be active participants in their child's education.

No matter how heated a situation may get, it is imperative that everyone involved be treated with dignity and respect. It is easy and somewhat natural to demonize someone you feel has wronged you or your family. But it is counter-productive toward any positive outcome.

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As such, all my advocacy efforts focus around not only getting what the individual with disability may need, but to help preserve the relationship between the family and the school by insisting that all parties maintain a professional demeanor throughout the advocacy process.

Services Offered

The list below describes some of IDEA Services specialty areas. However, it is not an exhaustive list of services offered. Please contact IDEA Services to see if we can help you with your particular situation or issue.

Developmental Disability Advocacy

- Eligibility Appeal Consulting
- Disability services advocacy for adults following the principles of self-determination

Special Education Advocacy

- All aspects of special education advocacy, including assistance with the filing of requests for due process hearing and mediation
- Due Process/Mediation Support*
- IEP (individualized Educational Plan) Review and Recommendations
- IEP Development Support (Goals/Objectives, etc.)
- Advocating/Negotiating at IEP Meetings
- IEP Strategy/Planning
- IDEA Eligibility Determination Appeals
- Conflict Resolution/Negotiation/Mediation/Team-Relationship Building
- Transition services coordination for youth with disabilities
- Independent Education Evaluations (IEEs)**

Vocational Rehabilitation

- VR system advocacy
- Job Placement and Coaching

Consultant for legal proceedings***

- Criminal justice issues
- Family Court issues
- Immigration issues
- Etc.

Speaking engagements, conferences, trainings and workshops, etc.

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Disclaimers: What IDEA Services does NOT do

* While the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in *Jacob Winkelman, et. al. v. Parma City Schools* that parents can represent *themselves* in special education due process cases, the court remained silent with respect to whether or not that extends to lay advocates. Accordingly, IDEA Services can participate in every aspect of due process cases but **CANNOT** represent the student or family.

IDEA Services does not provide any legal services or advice. IDEA Services helps to set the foundation for taking cases to their final legal (court) resolution (if that becomes necessary) and will assist individuals and families to find and retain legal services when appropriate. At such times, IDEA Services can act in a consultative capacity if requested.

IDEA Services cannot guarantee the outcome for any of the services it provides. Any discussion of probable results is an expression of the advocate's opinion and/or based on previous experience in other cases only and does not constitute a guarantee in any way.

*** IDEA Services can provide expert testimony on many aspects of developmental disabilities (especially autism) and/or can assist a legal team in identifying the most appropriate witnesses for your case.

Important Notice:

Beyond the initial consultation, no services will be provided by the advocate until there is a written agreement in force. IDEA Services will entertain any reasonable requests to modify the agreement to suit specific needs or circumstances. All clients are required to sign a general services agreement even if no retainer is required. There will be no exceptions.

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Client Intake Questionnaire

Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions the best you can. Additional information may be requested.

This case involves: Self Minor Child Adult family member
 Other _____

Please initial: _____ I am a parent, legal guardian, have power of attorney of the client and I am authorized to engage advocacy services on his/her behalf.

Client Information:

First Name: _____ Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip Code: _____

Ph: _____ Fax: _____

Email 1: _____

Email 2: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: phone email 1 email 2 any

Preferred Method of Receiving Documents: email fax mail courier

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