

## EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARTENTS

**Q. What is an Educational Surrogate Parent (ESP)?**

**A. An ESP is one type of person who can serve as a parent representative to the school, for a student receiving special education services.**

**Q. What do you mean by “one type of person”? Are there others?**

**A. Yes. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines different individuals who can serve as parents for students receiving special education services. These individuals are described in the IDEA regulations at 34 CFR 300.20.**

**Q. How is an ESP different from these other types of parent representatives?**

**A. A person can only be appointed as an ESP if no parent can be identified or located, or if the rights of the student’s parents have been terminated. These requirements are found in the IDEA regulations at 34 CFR 300.515.**

**Q. Who appoints an ESP?**

**A. In Colorado, the Colorado Department of Education Special Education Services Unit (SESU) will make the appointment, after being notified by the local Director of Special Education whom s/he has selected to be an ESP. The names of ESPs, and how to contact them, are kept on a list by the SESU.**

**Q. What are the qualifications for being an ESP?**

**A. An ESP cannot have an interest that conflicts with any interest of the student for whom s/he is acting as a representative, and s/he must have knowledge and skills adequate to represent the student.**

**Q. Who makes this determination?**

**A. The local Director of Special Education.**

**Q. What does an ESP do?**

**A. As the representative for the student, the ESP works with the school to determine what special education services the student will receive, and how the services will be delivered.**

**Q. Where can I find out more information about ESPs?**

**A. Contact your local Director of Special Education. You may also call the SESU consultant for ESPs by calling (303) 866-6685.**

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