Amanda,

I need your help again in a FOIA request. Under 20 USC 1415 it is required for the LEA “local educational agency” to provide a list of low cost and or pro bono legal assistance for parents when they make a complaint up to and including Due Process. When I filed for [REDACTED] this list was not made available. In dozens of my clients as an advocate this list is never made available. I am interested in weather or not this mandatory list is available to the public. I know of 2 attorney recourses such as Prairie Legal and Equip for Equality. However I have never heard of either taking up a case that has invoked a Due Process complaint. I also know of 3 other non attorney advocates in Illinois but again never have been made aware of them provided as a resource.

I am interested if Illinois has ANY actual verified resource available for low income parents. I am interested in knowing if a resource is available and willing to actually file a complaint if indicated. My own complaint was ignored by Equip for Equality several years ago that was definitely warranted as I won my case without their assistance when they refused assistance. I expect this is common and therefore not a true resource. It is in the public interest to find out if any entities exist that not only are willing to represent parents but have any record of actually doing so. The participation of non attorney advocates is generally regulated based on a State’s other available resources. Where resources are scarce non attorney advocates have much more influence. It appears Illinois has none that actually participate. I have made attempts for several years to locate these resources for parents to no avail. Therefore I am asking under FOIA if they do indeed exist and will perform the functions required by law as included in parental rights and protections. I am looking for records of actual participation.

Freedom of Information Act Request

Please be advised under the Federal Freedom of Information Act and 5 ILCS 140 et al I/we are requesting the following information as a public record from the body defined herein as Woodland School CUSD #5 - 5800 E 3000 North Rd, Streator, IL 61364 I/we request:

First I request the mandatory list of low income, Pro bono or contingency attorneys for parental representation for complaint issues. This list is to include all firms and private attorneys registered with ISBE to address representation for parents without the financial means to hire their own attorney.

Second I request a list of these reduced rate or free legal service attorneys that have actually participated in any Due Process complaint in the last 10 years. I am looking for the actual case numbers only at this time. I only ask for the names of the firms and attorneys that have actually participated in a Due process complaint as a low income, free or contingency attorney.

Third. I know of at least 3 non attorney advocates other them myself in Illinois representing parents and their children. I request the list of all non attorney
advocates that have in the last 10 years participated in any Due Process complaint filed with ISBE.

This request is looking into the available legal resources that are mandated to be made available to parents upon request or when filing a Due Process complaint. As such this is most definitely in the public’s interest.

Fourth, I request a list of the complaints non-attorney advocates have been part of for a Due Process complaint filed in the last 10 years. Simple case numbers are sufficient.

Fifth I request a list of the actual complaints by case number filed by Equip for Equality and Prairie Legal Service in the last 10 years. I am not looking for the actual cases. I just require the case numbers filed in any.

I expect these 5 items are quite short and easily provided. The availability of these resources go to the very core of the Act of IDEA and parental protections under 20 USC 1415 and required to be provided no less then once a year to IDEA eligible recipients and upon any request or complaint. I have had no success in receiving these documents upon any request for several years. Any partial list provided previously for entities included resources no longer in business for years. I am looking for VALIDATED list’s and the date they were last validated. It is in the interest of the parents and children of Illinois to know to what extent these resources are available. I am asking this for all parents but also as I myself have a child eligible under IDEA and in a LEA placed therapeutic school, I have a personal right to know. I am a parent with a child with a recognized learning disability protected with a IEP.

This request is in the interest of the general public and their rights to record public spending as it pertains to education in this state of Illinois. As such there should be no expense for copies.

I understand there are no charges for any search for records 5 ILCS 140/6 (b). Also if it is in the *public's interest* there will be no charges applied for records where there is issues of health, safety, and welfare of the legal rights of the public.

I /we expect the information within 10 days per federal guidelines. Non compliance will be reported to the Office of Civil Rights and specifically the U.S. Office of Compliance for FOIA request's.

Kids4IDEA Inc,