## **Contact Us**

Nassau Suffolk Law Services Education and Disability Rights Project

> For Residents of Nassau County: 1 Helen Keller Way, 5th Fl. Hempstead, NY 11550 Call (516) 292-8100

#### For Residents of Suffolk County:

West of Route 112: 1757 Veterans Hwy., Ste. 50 Islandia, NY 11749 Call (631) 232-2400

East of Route 112: 400 W. Main St., Ste. 200 Riverhead, NY 11901 Call (631) 369-1112



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#### LAW SERVICES

### Education and Disability Rights Project

DOING WHAT'S LEGALLY POSSIBLE TO CREATE A JUST WORLD

#### SERVICES OFFERED

We protect the educational rights of children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 22 in the following ways:

- We attend Committee on Special Education (CSE) meetings.
- We prepare Due Process Complaints and represent clients at Resolution Sessions, Impartial Hearings, and appeals to the State Review Office.
- We offer advice regarding education issues, including registration, residency disputes, bullying, homelessness, disciplinary proceedings, and Child Protective Services (CPS) indications for educational neglect.
- We represent clients in appeals to the N.Y.S. Commissioner of Education to request a review of school district determinations related to residency or homelessness.
- We represent adults with developmental disabilities in matters pertaining to OPWDD eligibility and services.

# **Our Mission**

Nassau Suffolk Law Services is committed to helping people in need vindicate their rights under the law. We provide free legal services in thousands of civil cases each year, as well as legal support to community advocates to ensure that people with low incomes and disabilities have equal access to the civil justice system on Long Island.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Education and Disability Rights Project is one of our specialized programs that serves people with disabilities and children with schoolrelated legal problems. We know how crucial legal assistance is for people struggling with issues related to their disabilities. Early legal intervention is often the most effective way to resolve an issue before it becomes complicated.

#### ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is based on the federal poverty level. The Education and Disability Rights Project assists individuals who have a physical and/or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major activities.

# What We Do

We protect the educational rights of children with disabilities who are between the ages of 3 and 22. Our work ensures that these children receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through the provision of programs and services required by state and federal law. We assist children and young people with a wide range of disabilities, including ADHD, learning disabilities, speech and language impairments, visual or hearing impairments, mental health issues, intellectual disability, Down Syndrome, Autism, and Cerebral Palsy. A disability is any physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as learning, self-care, living or independently.

We assist children and young people with school-related challenges pertaining to homelessness, residency status, or bullying. The client does not need to have a disability for us to help with these issues.

We also assist adults with developmental disabilities to obtain eligibility and services through the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Nassau Suffolk Law Services never charges a fee. Call our offices to see if you are eligible for the services provided by the Education and Disability Rights Project.

> Nassau: 516-292-8100 Suffolk: 631-232-2400