



Asheville City Schools Exceptional Children Program

SURROGATE PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

You will be a very important person to a child who needs you to protect his/her rights and to assure that he/she receives a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). You will be representing the interests of the child because his/her parents have not been located, are not known, or the child is a ward of the State of North Carolina.

As you work to determine what is in the best interest of the child, it will be important that you consider this question, “If this were my child, would I be satisfied with the educational programming he/she is receiving?” If at times you may be reluctant to ask a question because you think that you should know the answer, it is **very** important for you to remember that **no** question is too simple to ask. You have the responsibility to be fully informed about the child you represent.

Persons who **cannot** serve as surrogate parents include:

- Employees of DSS,
- Persons who receive a salary from any agency, which serves children (ARC, Mental Health, public schools, etc.),
- Substitute teachers
- Employees of group homes
- Guardian Ad Litem volunteers
 - Note: A guardian ad litem may only serve as parent if he/she has been appointed by the court or meets the criteria and has been appointed as an educational surrogate by the Local Educational Agency (LEA).

These persons are considered to have a conflict of interest. Examples of other conflicts of interest include the following:

- A teacher assistant working in another school in the district.
- A member of the local Board of Education.
- The spouse of a principal working in the district.
- The owner of a private school for students with disabilities.
- A private psychologist who evaluates school-age children.

Exceptional Children Contact:

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Name	Phone Number	Email	Do you work for the state of NC