

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Connecticut Technical High School System Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parents: Pro Se

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Christine L. Chinni
Chinni & Meuser LLC
30 Avon Meadow Lane
Avon, CT 06001

Appearing before: Justino Rosado, Esq.
Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

Should the Board be responsible for the cost of an independent advocate to assist the Student and Parent at planning and placement team (PPT) meetings?

SUMMARY AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

The Student is entitled to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) as defined in the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) 20 U.S.C. §1401 et seq. and Connecticut General Statute §10-76a et seq. At a planning and placement team (PPT) meeting, the Parent requested that the Board assume the cost of an independent advocate to assist the Parent and the Student at planning and placement team meetings. The Board refused the Parent's request and the Parent filed for a due process hearing. The Board received notice of the request for due process on February 25, 2017. An impartial hearing officer was appointed on February 28, 2017 and a pre-hearing conference was scheduled for March 9, 2017. The parties did not attend the scheduled telephonic conference.

On March 2, 2017, the Board's attorney filed a sufficiency challenge requesting clarity of the issues and the relief that the Parent was seeking. On March 10, 2017, the sufficiency challenge was Granted. The response to the sufficiency challenge requested clarification as to the nature of the problem, facts relating to the problem and the relief requested required clarification. Notice was sent to the Parent on March 10, 2017, only by 1st Class Mail as an electronic transmission address was not provided. The Parent did not file a resubmission of the request for due process within the statutory time as requested in the notice. The mailing date for the Final Decision and Order is May 10, 2017.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

THE MATTER IS DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE.