

Prior Written Notices / Consent:

A Parent / Guardian's Guide to Success

Video Transcript

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Host: "Hello, everyone! Understanding the concepts of Prior Written Notice and Consent for services is essential in the special education process. Today, we'll clarify what these terms mean, when you'll encounter them, and how they impact decisions regarding your child's education."

Host: "A Prior Written Notice, or PWN, is a formal document from the school district outlining any proposed or refused actions regarding your child's identification, IEP, evaluation, placement, or the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education, or FAPE. It's crucial because it ensures transparency and helps parents or guardians understand the school's proposed plan."

Host: "You'll encounter a Prior Written Notice whenever the school proposes or refuses changes in your child's education plan. This could include evaluations, changes in services, such as a new or amended IEP, or placement decisions. It's important to review these notices to stay informed and involved in your child's education."

Host: "When you receive a Prior Written Notice, carefully review the details. Ensure you understand the proposed actions or refusals. There can be a lot of jargon or acronyms so, if something is unclear, don't hesitate to contact the school for clarification. This is your opportunity to be an active participant in your child's educational journey."

Host: "If you disagree with any part of the notice, you have several options. First, you can call the school and or request a meeting to discuss concerns. If the team is unable to reach an agreement about your concerns, you have the right to seek an Independent Educational Evaluation, sometimes referred to as IEE, or consider mediation or due process hearings to resolve disputes. Keep in mind that your child's current services will continue while disagreements are addressed."

Host: "For your child's first IEP (also referred to as an initial IEP), if you choose not to provide consent, the school cannot proceed with the proposed actions or services, however, the school may also pursue certain actions through legal processes if they believe it's necessary for your child's education. In states like Minnesota, when you consent to the initial, or first, IEP, this consent can be used for future IEPs, referred to as annual IEPs, however, you will still be informed of all proposed changes and have time to ask questions and share disagreements."

Host: "Providing consent allows the school to move forward with the proposed evaluations or changes. This step facilitates timely support and adjustments to your child's educational plan, ensuring they receive the most appropriate services."

Host: "Understanding Prior Written Notices and Consent for services empowers you to make informed decisions about your child's education. Remember, you're a vital advocate in this process. Engage actively, ask questions, and collaborate with the school to ensure your child receives the best possible support. Thank you for watching!"

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