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## *Fast Facts*

### **Tips for Parents Retaining a Special Education Attorney**

Special education attorneys care about parents and their special needs children; they want to see their clients' children succeed not just in school, but in life as well. If you are thinking about retaining an attorney to assist you in your quest for placement/services from the District, the following suggestions will be helpful for you to remember.

**1 Be truthful and straightforward.** The more information you give to your attorney, the better he/she will be able to plan for your case. Knowing bad facts ahead of time helps neutralize them. Don't be surprised if you're asked a lot of questions--it is important for your attorney to get a sense about how you answer (even difficult questions) to better evaluate whether or not a due process hearing would be appropriate for your situation.

**2 Trust us.** Once you find an attorney you're a good fit with, you should feel comfortable allowing that attorney to work on your behalf. To make sure your attorney is familiar with what is happening, it makes the most sense to have your school district representatives speak directly to your lawyer so you aren't having to play the middle man.

**3 Ask us.** If you think you may be confused about something, ask us! That's what we're here for. We want you to fully understand the process and know what is going on, so don't hesitate to get clarification when you need it.

**4 Know what you want.** No one knows your student better than you do, and we want to hear what it is that you think he/she needs. Write a narrative of what's happened when, that helps us understand what has happened and where you want to go.

**5 Bring your paperwork.** Sometimes the smallest note can be crucial to your case, so bring everything you have. No matter how old the report might be, or how irrelevant the letter may appear to you, we want to see it--especially if you've ever shown it to your school district.

**For more Information: logon to [www.NAVLaw.net/fastfacts](http://www.NAVLaw.net/fastfacts)**