# Surviving Due Process: WHEN PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD DISAGREE Stephen Jeffers v. School Board

### *by* HARBOR HOUSE LAW PRESS, INC.

Demystifies special education due process hearings



Keeps you guessing!

**Surviving Due Process: Stephen Jeffers v. School Board** takes you through a special education due process hearing, from initial preparations to testimony by the final witness.

- If you are a parent who has a dispute with the school, we urge you to use the *Stephen Jeffers v. School Board* DVD and our book, *From Emotions to Advocacy*, as tools to help resolve your dispute.
- If you work with children with disabilities as an educator, related service provider, evaluator, or administrator, or you are curious about the mysterious "due process hearing," *Stephen Jeffers v. School Board* will give you an insider's view of what to expect.
- If you are an advocate or an attorney, Stephen Jeffers v. School Board is a "must watch" for your clients before they inadvertently damage their case, thinking they are "doing the right thing."
- You will learn how attorneys for parents and schools prepare for due process hearings. See exciting direct examination and dramatic cross-examination of witnesses objections and arguments between counsel, and rulings by the hearing officer. Learn about rules that must be followed, mistakes people make - and why the parents' case was nearly dismissed.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires that public schools provide a free, appropriate education to qualifying students with disabilities. If there is a disagreement between parents and their school district, either party may request a special education due process hearing.

## Due Process DVD

Surviving Due Process: Stephen Jeffers v. School Board is based on an actual case about a young child with autism. With different evidence and witnesses, this could easily be a case about a child with a different disability or a different legal issue.

*Surviving Due Process: When Parents and the School Board Disagree* DVD has scene markers so you can easily skip to a scene that that interests you. This feature makes it easy to use this DVD in training programs or classes. Scenes are listed below.

- > The school board attorney and her paralegal begin to prepare the school board's case.
- > The due process hearing begins; the parents' case may be dismissed.
- > Stephen's parents search for an attorney to represent them.
- > The parents meet with Pete Wright.
- > The due process hearing resumes; the school board presents its case.
- > The special education teacher testifies.
- > The occupational therapist testifies.
- > The director of special education testifies.
- > The due process hearing continues; the parents present their case.
- The child psychologist testifies.
- > The supervisor of Stephen's program testifies.
- > The school principal testifies.
- Stephen's mother testifies.

# The cast includes . .

- > Darrel Tiller Mason, Esq., attorney and former hearing officer
- > Kathleen S. Mehfoud, Esq., school board attorney
- Peter W.D. Wright, Esq., parent attorney

### Published by Harbor House Law Press, Inc., ISBN 1-892320-04-5, \$19.95

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