

Other Options



State Complaints are not the only way to resolve disputes. You can:

- Seek help with early dispute resolution from Pathfinder.
- Ask the local special education unit for assistance.
- Ask DPI to clarify your rights with the school.
- Ask for a Facilitated IEP
- Ask for Mediation
- Consider a Due Process Hearing.

Early Dispute Resolution

- If you have read one thing about your rights but are told another
- If you told the teacher or principal and you believe nothing was done
- If you tried to resolve the problem and can't get a meeting or a solution.
- If you have questions or are unclear about what steps to take next.
- If you need a safe place to share concerns confidentially then contact:

Pathfinder Parent Center

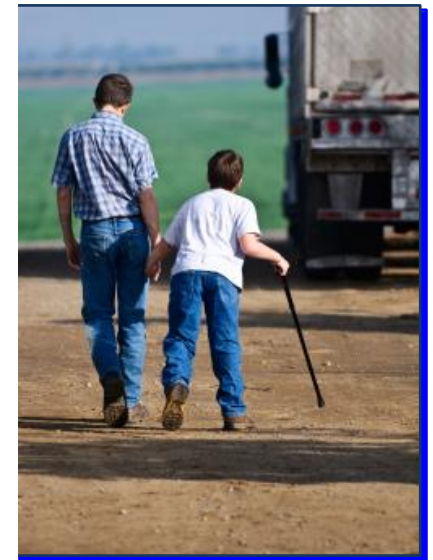
1600 2nd Ave SW, Ste. 30
Minot, ND 58701-3459
Phone: 1.800.245.5840 or
701.837.7500

E-mail: info@pathfinder-nd.org
<http://pathfinder-nd.org>



Dispute Resolution

Using the ND State Complaint Process to Resolve Disputes



Helping children with special needs to reach their goals

Phone: 1.800.245.5840 or
701.837.7500

Before You File

When/If You File

After You File

Try Other Options

Sometimes parents and schools don't agree on what services or procedures to use. If this happens, you can:

- Try to resolve the concern at the local level. Speak calmly.
- Think about what your child needs, not just what you want.
- Focus on what is happening now, not what happened a year ago.
- Contact the building principal in writing with your concerns.
- Contact the Regional Special Ed. Director in writing with concerns.
- Never threaten people.
- Ask for a meeting to discuss concerns. Be open & willing to trust others.
- Ask for a facilitated IEP meeting
- Contact the Pathfinder Parent Center for help to understand your rights and options.
- Call the ND Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) for help or to review the complaint process.

1.866.741.3519 or 701.328.2277

Follow These Steps

You are making a charge that special education laws or regulations are not being followed.

- Write your complaint in a letter or use a state form. Date it.
- Clearly state what part of the law (IDEA) isn't being followed.
- Tell what the school did or did not do that was a violation.
- Give the facts on which your complaint is based with dates and details.
- Include only violations that happened within one year of the date you file.
- Include the name and address of the student, the name of the school they attend and your contact information.
- Include a statement of what you believe needs to happen to resolve the violation.
- Include relevant documents that support your claim.
- Sign the letter or form.

Know What to Expect

- Complete and send a state form or a letter with documents to:
- <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/forms/sfn58618.pdf>
Director of Special Education
ND Department of Public Instruction
600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 201
Bismarck, ND 58505-0440
- Both you and the school will be notified when a letter is received.
- The school will be given a chance to draft a formal response.
- If you agree with a proposed solution you can withdraw the complaint in writing.
- The NDDPI will interview people; write letters, review records, or conduct on-site investigations.
- You will receive a report with the findings. The report may state:
 - No violations were found
 - Violations were found
 - The problem was resolved
- If violations are found the school will be required to correct the problem in a timely manner.