

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Ridgefield Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent: Courtney Spencer, Esq.
Law Office of Courtney Spencer, LLC
100 Riverview Center, Suite 290
Middletown, CT 06457

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Marsha Moses, Esq.
Berchem, Moses & Devlin, PC
75 Broad Street
Milford, CT 06460

Appearing before: Sylvia Ho, Esq.
Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Did the Board fail to identify the Student as Student with a Disability under the IDEA?
2. Did the Board fail to timely evaluate Student?
3. Did the Board fail to provide an appropriate program for Student?
4. Did the Board predetermine the Student's Program?
5. Is the program at New Haven Residential Treatment Center appropriate?
6. Should the Board be required to reimburse Parents for the costs of tuition and education related expenses?
7. Does the Student require a residential placement?
8. If so, should the Board be required to reimburse the Parents for the costs of the residential placement?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY/SUMMARY:

The Parent filed the Due Process Complaint and Request for Hearing on January 6, 2015. The Hearing Officer was appointed on January 7, 2015 and conducted a Prehearing Conference on January 20, 2015. At the prehearing conference, the parties reported that they had come to an agreement in principle and believed that they would be able to finalize an agreement in a few weeks. On February 17, 2015, the Hearing Officer requested that the parties report the status of the settlement agreement and need for a hearing. The parties requested a second prehearing conference that was held on February 27, 2015. A hearing was scheduled for March 20, 2015. On March 16, 2015, the Parent withdrew the Due Process Complaint with prejudice.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

The matter is **DISMISSED** with prejudice.

If the local or regional board of education or the unified school district responsible for providing special education for the student requiring special education does not take action on the findings or prescription of the hearing officer within fifteen days after receipt thereof, the State Board of Education shall take appropriate action to enforce the findings or prescription of the hearing officer.

Appeals from the hearing decision of the hearing officer may be made to state or federal court by either party in accordance with the provisions of Section 4-183, Connecticut General Statutes, and Title 20, United States Code 1415(i)(2)(A).


Hearing Officer Signature

Robert L. Skelley, Esq.

Hearing Officer Name in Print