

Proud Aspy Mom Newsletter | July 2022



Scope of Employment



I am often contacted by parents about challenges their children with disabilities are going through.

The calls are agonizing and my response is often and unfortunately not very helpful. The conversation typically goes like this.

Someone told me you may be able to help me.

My child has been discriminated against and treated badly. My child was isolated, not allowed to go to the bathroom, restrained from participating in regular activities, teased, pulled out of class, made an example of or outright abused.

My response. As a parent I completely understand your fatigue, pain, alienation, frustration and feeling unheard. Please tell me:

- Does your child have an Individual Education Plan, (IEP), 504 plan?
- Have you documented the abuse?
- Did you review the school hand book?
- Did you meet the Accessibility Coordinator?
- Finally how far are you willing to go???

No one wants to hear this, when someone is overtly treating their child bad or exercising micro-aggressive tactics to remove the child from the classroom.

I have been in this exact situation, which is why I am so passionate about ADVOCACY! The truth is most educators may not be fully aware of their LEGAL obligations to children with disabilities. It is our job as parents to HOLD educators responsible for their actions when they do not align with federal, state or county laws.

I cannot say enough how much your knowledge as a parent or advocate is crucial to your child's success.

- KNOW your child's strength and deficits,
- Be HONEST with your family about the extent of what you can do
- Take SWIFT action!

Knowledge is power - and although sometimes it takes a lot out of us - the time has EXTREME dividends!



Supporting Students with Disabilities and Avoiding the Discriminatory Use of Student Discipline under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Discipline Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Notice of Language Assistance: If you have difficulty understanding English, you may, free of charge, request language assistance services for this Department information by calling 1 -800-USA-LEARN

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Still Anxiety



A lot of people live with anxiety. Sometimes the day to day struggle of our inner nerves prevent us from living. We caution our decisions, environments and social obligations. These very REAL feelings can render us alone and isolated.

NOW magnify that by infinity!

Each day for someone living on the spectrum brings some level of uncertainty. Reading facial clues, managing sounds, adjusting to lights and overall engagement creates a heavy burden. It is difficult to ask anyone what they are worried about, but those living with ASD may not always articulate the source of anxiety, which makes it difficult to support them.

Wherever we go our family attempts to go into a known environment. We typically go to the same restaurants, exact grocery store, coffee shop or big

box store to minimize sensory challenges. Navigating what it feels like to someone with ASD sometimes breaks down communication. I cannot just say for example why don't you like this environment. The range of responses are endless.

I typically stay up late researching issues and came across this video fe the Cleveland Clinic. It helps loves ones UNDERSTAND why anxiety arouses the senses.

No cure but empathy along with education is half the battle.



The Disability Rights Section works to achieve equal opportunity for people with disabilities in the United States by implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Executive Order 12250.



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Anxiety

some autistic people may feel anxious in their day-to-day lives due to navigating social and sensory environments that might be difficult or challenging.

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