

MOUNT UNION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: SURROGATE PARENTS

ADOPTED: August 24, 2009

REVISED:

<p>1. Authority 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq 34 CFR Sec. 300.519</p> <p>2. Definition</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">113.2. SURROGATE PARENTS</p> <p>The Mount Union Area School District policy on the use and training of surrogate parents has been adopted to comply with IDEA. The Mount Union Area School District recognizes that in the process of a child’s education, parents play an important role in safeguarding the rights of a handicapped child. To ensure those rights where children are wards of the state or where parents are unknown or unavailable, the Mount Union Area School District may identify those children and appoint an individual to represent the child in matters of education.</p> <p>A surrogate parent is a trained individual acting in place of a parent in matters of education, to a child assigned by the school district, to ensure that the child’s rights for a free public and appropriate education are developed and maintained.</p> <p>The school district will ensure that the person selected as surrogate parent:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is not an employee of the school district or any other agency that is involved in the education or care of the child. 2. Has no personal or professional interest that conflicts with the interest of the child the surrogate parent represents. 3. Has knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child. <p>The surrogate appointed by the school district shall act in place of a parent for the student concerning his/her educational program by being involved in planning, understanding of procedure and rights, and will receive notices concerning evaluation and placement.</p> <p>In order to identify students in need of surrogate parents, the school district shall utilize the services of the intermediate unit and/or services of district personnel to maintain an ongoing search of records to identify those handicapped, or children thought to be handicapped, to determine the need for a surrogate parent.</p>
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The intermediate unit and/or district personnel shall provide training for surrogates which will include acquainting the surrogate parent with:

1. The student.
2. Description of the current educational program.
3. Identifying key people in the school system.
4. Familiarizing the surrogate with the procedures for IEP development and due process and confidentiality of records.
5. Familiarizing the surrogate with comparable educational programs provided by the school district and intermediate unit.

Following training and assignment, members of the I.U. staff will be available for ongoing consultation for the Mount Union Area School District on an as needed basis.

References:

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.

Individuals With Disabilities Education, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations –
34 CFR Part 300