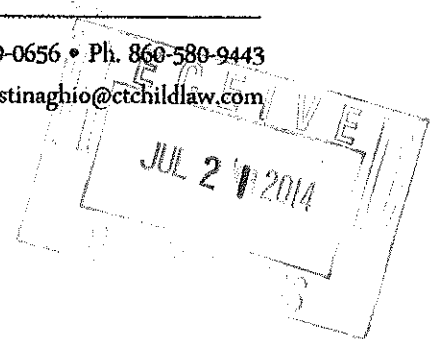


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Via facsimile: (860) 713-7153

Via email: gail.mangs@ct.gov

July 14, 2014

Gail Mangs
Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Special Education
Due Process Unit
P.O. Box 2219, Room 364
Hartford, CT 06145-2219

Re: Complaint

Name of Child: [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED] Southington, CT 06489
School: The Grove School

Dear Ms. Mangs:

I represent [REDACTED] mother of [REDACTED] who is 18 years old, is diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and Borderline Personality. [REDACTED] overall IQ is in the high average range, though her verbal IQ is in the very superior range. A petition for appointment of a conservator is currently pending in the Probate Court for Southington, CT.

I write to complain that the district has refused to issue a prior written notice documenting the PPT decision made at the PPT on April 29, 2014 to place [REDACTED] at the Grove School as a residential student for the 2014-2015 school year and to continue the current goals and objectives. Likewise, the district has refused to record the decision in the PPT Summary or otherwise within the IEP.

At the PPT on April 29, 2014, a PPT was held and the team decided that [REDACTED] would be placed at the Grove School as a residential student for the 2014-2015 school and would participate in Grove's transition program. The goals and objectives were continued for the 2014-2015 school year, with agreement that additional goals and objectives may be needed following a pragmatic language assessment. The district later issued an IEP, including a PPT summary and prior written notice. Neither the prior written notice nor the PPT summary reflect the placement decision made by the team or the recommendation to continue the goals and objectives for the 2014-2015 school year. The PPT summary states that the student will be

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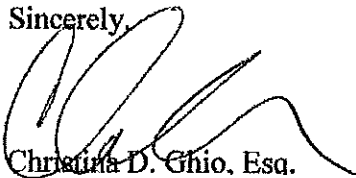
placed at Grove through August 21, 2014. It does not state the student's placement for the 2014-2015 school year is at Grove School as a residential student. The prior written notice states "placement in a 2014-2015 program for transition purposes" but does not reflect that the placement is at the Grove School in the residential program. On May 19, 2014, the parent, through counsel, requested amendment to the IEP/PPT Summary dated April 29, 2014 to reflect the team's decision regarding placement at Grove School. See attached letter. Because the district did not respond, the undersigned counsel contacted counsel for the district via e-mail on June 10, 2014 to request a response. In follow up communications with counsel for the district, counsel has indicated that the district does not object to the student's residential placement at Grove School. Nonetheless, the district has refused to issue a prior written notice reflecting the team's decision on April 29, 2014.

The PPT on April 29, 2014 was recorded. This complaint is sent via facsimile. The audio recording will be sent via regular mail. In addition, the undersigned counsel has attached the IEP dated April 29, 2014 and the subsequent e-mail communications between counsel.¹

This complaint could be resolved if the district:

- a. provides prior written notice that the student will be placed at the Grove School as a residential student for the 2014-2015 school year and amends the PPT summary to reflect the same;
- b. amends the PPT summary and written prior notice to state that the current goals and objectives are continued, with additions to be made following the pragmatic language assessment.

Sincerely,



Christina D. Ghio, Esq.

Attorney for [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Craig Meuser, Attorney for Southington Public Schools via email at craig@chinniandmeuser.com

Enc.

¹ The e-mail communications have been redacted. The e-mails will be provided without redaction with the agreement of the district.