

# MARSE R 340.1723c Right to independent educational evaluation.

## **RULE 23C.**

(1) Each public agency shall provide parents with information about independent educational evaluations at public expense. The information must include all of the following:

- (a) Criteria regarding credentials for qualified examiners.
- (b) Suggested sources and locations.
- (c) Procedures for reimbursement.
- (d) Reasonable expected costs.
- (e) Notification that the parent is not restricted to choosing from sources suggested by the public agency.

(2) A parent has the right to an independent educational evaluation at public expense if the parent disagrees with an evaluation obtained by the public agency. A parent is entitled to only 1 independent educational evaluation at public expense each time the public agency conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees. The parent shall submit the parent's disagreement and request in written, signed, and dated form. However, the public agency may initiate a hearing under R 340.1724f to show that its evaluation is appropriate. The public agency shall respond, in writing, to the request within 7 calendar days of its receipt by indicating the public agency's intention to honor the request or to initiate the hearing procedure under R 340.1724f. If the hearing officer determines that the evaluation is appropriate, then the parent still has the right to an independent educational evaluation, but not at public expense.

(3) The public agency shall disclose to the parent, before evaluation, whether the examiner who was contracted to provide an independent educational evaluation provides services to the public agency that are in addition to the independent educational evaluation.

(4) Unless agreeable to the parent, an examiner or examiners who otherwise or regularly contract with the public agency to provide services shall not conduct an independent educational evaluation.

## **RELATED IDEA FEDERAL REGULATION**

### **§ 300.502 INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL EVALUATION.**

(a) General.

(1) The parents of a child with a disability have the right under this part to obtain an independent educational evaluation of the child, subject to paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section.

(2) Each public agency must provide to parents, upon request for an independent educational evaluation, information about where an

independent educational evaluation may be obtained, and the agency criteria applicable for independent educational evaluations as set forth in paragraph (e) of this section.

(3) For the purposes of this subpart—

(i) Independent educational evaluation means an evaluation conducted by a qualified examiner who is not employed by the public agency responsible for the education of the child in question; and

(ii) Public expense means that the public agency either pays for the full cost of the evaluation or ensures that the evaluation is otherwise provided at no cost to the parent, consistent with § 300.103.

(b) Parent right to evaluation at public expense.

(1) A parent has the right to an independent educational evaluation at public expense if the parent disagrees with an evaluation obtained by the public agency, subject to the conditions in paragraphs (b)(2) through (4) of this section.

(2) If a parent requests an independent educational evaluation at public expense, the public agency must, without unnecessary delay, either—

(i) File a due process complaint to request a hearing to show that its evaluation is appropriate; or

(ii) Ensure that an independent educational evaluation is provided at public expense, unless the agency demonstrates in a hearing pursuant to §§ 300.507 through 300.513 that the evaluation obtained by the parent did not meet agency criteria.

(3) If the public agency files a due process complaint notice to request a hearing and the final decision is that the agency's evaluation is appropriate, the parent still has the right to an independent educational evaluation, but not at public expense.

(4) If a parent requests an independent educational evaluation, the public agency may ask for the parent's reason why he or she objects to the public evaluation. However, the public agency may not require the parent to provide an explanation and may not unreasonably delay either providing the independent educational evaluation at public expense or filing a due process complaint to request a due process hearing to defend the public evaluation.

(5) A parent is entitled to only one independent educational evaluation at public expense each time the public agency conducts an evaluation with which the parent disagrees.

(c) Parent-initiated evaluations. If the parent obtains an independent educational evaluation at public expense or shares with the public agency an evaluation obtained at private expense, the results of the evaluation—

(1) (Must be considered by the public agency, if it meets agency criteria, in any decision made with respect to the provision of FAPE to the child; and

(2) May be presented by any party as evidence at a hearing on a due

process complaint under subpart E of this part regarding that child.

(d) Requests for evaluations by hearing officers. If a hearing officer requests an independent educational evaluation as part of a hearing on a due process complaint, the cost of the evaluation must be at public expense.

(e) Agency criteria.

(1) (If an independent educational evaluation is at public expense, the criteria under which the evaluation is obtained, including the location of the evaluation and the qualifications of the examiner, must be the same as the criteria that the public agency uses when it initiates an evaluation, to the extent those criteria are consistent with the parent's right to an independent educational evaluation.

(2) Except for the criteria described in paragraph (e)(1) of this section, a public agency may not impose conditions or timelines related to obtaining an independent educational evaluation at public expense.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1415(b)(1) and (d)(2)(A))