



Non-lawyer parents may, under the provisions of IDEA, represent themselves pro se in federal court

In a Supreme Court case, *Winkelman v. Parma City School District*, 550 U.S. 516 (2007), the Court decided that when parents, disagreeing with the outcome of their child's IEP, even after attending a due process hearing, may take their claims to federal court without acquiring legal counsel. Parents may bring their claim(s), under IDEA, without an attorney even if they are not attorneys themselves. This is referred to as "appearing *pro se*." While appearing *pro se* is an option for parents, it is advisable to consult an attorney first.