



**Education Law Center**

*Standing Up for Public School Children*

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT RECORDS**

If your child receives special education services, you probably received a notice from your district about the "disclosure" of information regarding your child. We hope this notice did not cause confusion or concern. The notice was required by the court in a case brought by Disability Rights New Jersey ("DRNJ," formerly New Jersey Protection & Advocacy, Inc.), The Arc of New Jersey, the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network ("SPAN") and the Education Law Center ("ELC"). The case was brought to make sure that each student with a disability across the state receives an education in the "least restrictive environment" that is appropriate for him/her, and with all the necessary supports.

In order for DRNJ, The Arc of New Jersey, SPAN and ELC to best advocate for students with disabilities, it is critical that their lawyers review statistical data and a limited number of student records which may contain information about your child. Even if the advocacy groups' lawyers look at your child's records, they are required by law to keep that information **CONFIDENTIAL**. Please rest assured that:

- \* **Absolutely no information will be shared outside the lawsuit**
- \* **The public will not be able to see your child's records**
- \* **All records will be returned to the State at the end of the lawsuit**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the following:

Technical Assistance, SPAN, 800-654-7726

Elizabeth Shea, The Arc of New Jersey, 732-246-2525, ex. 38

Mary Ciccone, DRNJ, 800-922-7233, MCiccone@DRNJ.org

Ruth Lowenkron, ELC, 973-624-1815, ex. 21, RLowenkron@edlawcenter.org