

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Student v. Hartford Board of Education

Appearing on behalf of the Parent (Mother): Attorney Lynn B. Cochrane
Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.
999 Asylum Avenue, 3rd Floor
Hartford, CT 06105

Appearing on behalf of the Board: Attorney Melinda B. Kaufmann
Assistant Corporation Counsel
City of Hartford
550 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06103

Appearing before: Attorney Patricia M. Strong, Hearing Officer

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER

ISSUES:

1. Should the Board have evaluated the Student and determined whether he was eligible for special education and related services?
2. Should the Board have placed the Student in a program that meets his special needs?

PROCEDURAL HISTORY:

The Parent (Mother) requested this hearing by mailing a letter to the State Department of Education ("SDE"). The letter was received on April 29, 2009. This Hearing Officer was assigned to the case on May 7, 2009. The Board of Education's attorney filed an appearance on May 9, 2009 and requested a copy of the Parent's letter. On May 11, 2009, the Hearing Officer sent a copy to the Board's attorney along with a notice to the parties of a prehearing conference. A prehearing conference was held on May 19, 2009 with the Board's attorney. The Parent did not answer her telephone. The Board's attorney reported that a resolution meeting had been rescheduled to June 4, 2009 at the Parent's request. A hearing date was scheduled for June 26, 2009 and the mailing date for the final decision was set at July 27, 2009. On June 5, 2009, the Board's attorney filed a Motion to Postpone Hearing and/or Dismiss due to the Parent's failure to participate in the resolution meeting.

On June 15, 2009, Atty. Cochrane filed an appearance for the Parent and stated that she had no objection to postponing the hearing because she would be on vacation that week. The postponement was granted, the hearing was scheduled for July 7, 2009 and the mailing date for the final decision was

extended to July 31, 2009. The Hearing Officer gave Atty. Cochrane until June 19, 2009 to file an objection to the Board's Motion to Dismiss. On June 16, 2009, the Board's attorney filed a Supplemental Motion to Dismiss based on the Parent's conduct during a June 10, 2009 resolution meeting. On June 19, 2009, Atty. Cochrane filed a Motion to withdraw her appearance for the Parent. The Hearing Officer allowed the Parent until June 26, 2009 to file objections to the Supplemental Motion to Dismiss and the Motion to Withdraw. The Parent did not file anything or contact the Hearing Officer. On June 29, 2009, the Hearing Officer advised the parties that the July 7, 2009 hearing was canceled and that the case would be dismissed.

FINAL DECISION AND ORDER:

It is ordered that this case shall be dismissed.