If you have any questions you may contact the Part C Coordinator in your area:

For further information call or write:

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida, Inc.
2735 Whitney Road
Clearwater, FL 33760-1610
(727) 523-1130
(800) 825-5736
FAX (727) 523-8687
e-mail: fnd@fndfl.org
FND Web Page: http://fndfl.org

Funding for this brochure is provided by the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Children's Medical Services. The development and printing of this brochure was made possible by a federal grant from the United States Department of Education, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
Parents and families are very important. You have rights, called "Procedural Safeguards" that will let you be an equal partner in planning what happens for your child and family.

You have a right to...

Written prior notice:
This means

- You must be told in writing before your child is tested, and also before any services are changed or refused for your child and family.
- The notice must be given in the language you understand best.
- The notice must tell you about what is being changed or refused and why.
- You must be given information explaining all of your rights.

You have a right to...

Informed Consent:
This means

- Your child will be tested and get services for the first time only if you agree to it in writing.
- You must be given information in your language so that you can understand it.
- The consent form must say to what you are agreeing, list any information being sent out about your child, and who will get that information.
- You must understand to what you are agreeing. If you don’t, it must be explained to you before you sign.

You have a right to...

Review Records:
This means

- You may take away your permission for your child to have any service.
- Your child will get only those services for which you ask.

You have a right to...

Impartial Hearing:
This means

- You may give information, ask witnesses to come, and talk to witnesses.
- You may forbid the use of information that you don’t know about at least 5 days before the meeting.
- You have a right to written or tape recorded, word-for-word records of the meeting.
- A written decision must be mailed to you no later than 45 days after they get your complaint.

You have a right to...

Appeals:
This means

- If you are still not satisfied with the decision you can go to the District Court of Appeals so that your complaint may be heard again.
- While all this is going on your child must continue to get the services to which you have agreed.

Children have a right to...

Surrogate Parents:
This means

- If a parent of a child can’t be found, then someone with the knowledge and skills needed to represent the child, will be chosen to protect that child’s rights. This person is called a surrogate.

Knowing your rights can help you make a difference for your child and family.