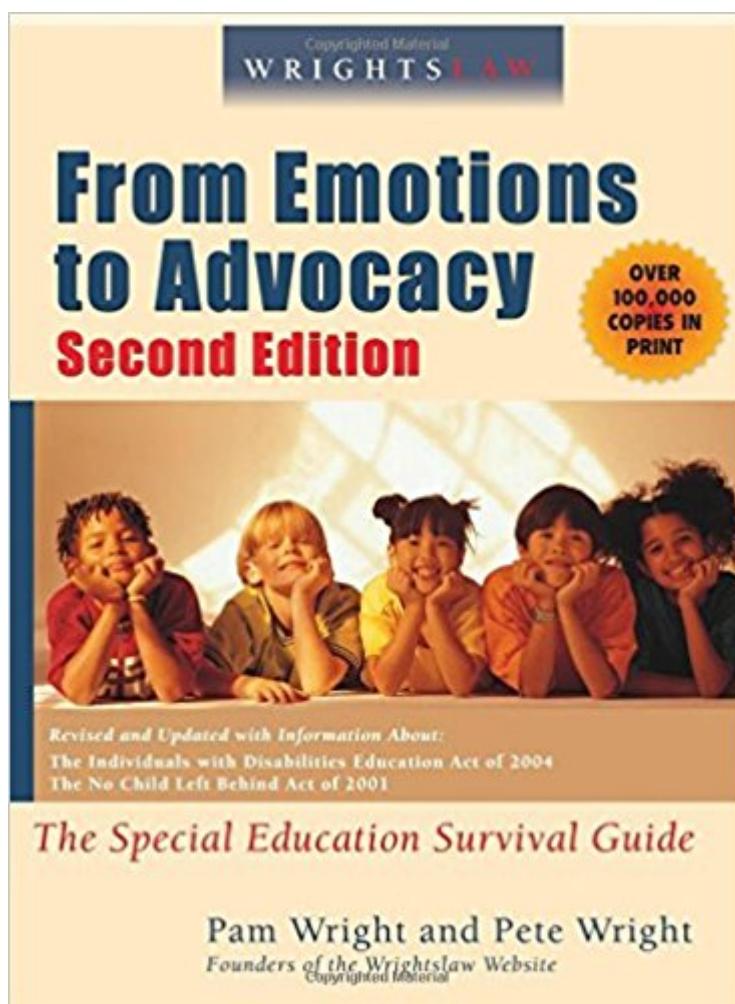


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# Wrightslaw: From Emotions To Advocacy: The Special Education Survival Guide



## **Synopsis**

Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, second edition will teach you how to plan, prepare, organize and get quality special education services. In this comprehensive, easy-to-read book, you will learn your child's disability and educational needs, how to create a simple method for organizing your child's file and devising a master plan for your child's special education. You will understand parent-school conflict, how to create paper trails and effective letter writing. This book includes dozens of worksheets, forms and sample letters that you can tailor to your needs. Whether you are new to special education or an experienced advocate this book will provide a clear roadmap to effective advocacy for your child. You will use this book again and again.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Learning to be an effective advocate for your special needs child IS work! Special education is a "right", but must be assiduously pursued. But there are definite tactics and strategies to assist the parent. From Emotions to Advocacy [FETA] is a wonderful map for every parent. The book follows a logical and well organized road, beginning with preparing the reader for understanding the complex interplay of parents, schools, disabilities, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and other disability laws. Among the important lessons that authors Pamela and Peter Wright teach are how to organize your files using a document management system, how to use private sector expert evaluations of your child and why they are essential, and how to understand the critical role of testing, percentile ranks, and the Bell Curve, and how to use those results to work for your child's "SMART IEP". The use of the "Columbo Strategy" to build valid IEP goals by asking "who,

what,why,where, when, how and explain" [5Ws+H+E] is taught. The critical skill of letter writing and documenting all conversations, agreements, and decisions with your school administrators is part of the strategy of writing calm, factual letters as if they will be read by a "Stranger". Lessons to bolster your self confidence and achieve results in IEP meetings are carefully discussed. The sample letters in the appendices and the numerous strategy discussions lay out how to avoid letting anger and other emotions interfere with keeping your focus on improving your child's education. Numerous other appendices and cross references throughout FETA provide additional resources, including the informative Q&As of the federal IDEA Appendix A. As an attorney who has a child with special needs, I have benefited greatly from Peter and Pam Wright's insights and apply that knowledge in my own practice. FETA is the "how-to" starting point and compass for all parents entering the special education struggle. --By Malcolm B. Higgins, II, Attorney at Law in Virginia Beach,

VirginiaThis book is the perfect companion to "Wrightslaw: Special Education Law". If you have a child with special needs the most frustrating thing as a parent is trying to get educational services for your child. This book teaches you how to advocate for your child to get the services he needs.

The Wrights give you the confidence and skills that you need to successfully advocate for your child. This book (and it's predecessor) help level the playing field between the parents and the school. As a parent and child advocate, I own several 100 books. This book (and Wrightslaw) rank in the top 5. I HIGHLY recommend this book to anyone who has a special needs child who is attending public school. --By William W. Joslin in TXThis is the book that parents of special needs children have been searching for! When a child does not "fit in the box", parents find that they must search for information on how to care for their child. Just when they have mastered the medical maze, the child begins school and the search for advice and knowledge begins all over again!

Children with disabilities who succeed in school have parents who learn to set aside their feelings and clothe themselves in the armor of advocacy. "From Emotions to Advocacy" assists parents in the journey through the special education labyrinth by giving them a focus. Parents learn accurate documentation and record-keeping, productive communication skills, effective tactics and strategies, and Pete and Pam Wright have put it all together into an easy to read, understandable package. Parents who use the process and procedures outlined in "From Emotions to Advocacy" will avoid many of the pitfalls that entrap many parents of special needs --Patricia Howey

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predecessor) help level the playing field between the parents and the school. As a parent and child advocate, I own several 100 books. This book (and Wrightslaw) rank in the top 5. I HIGHLY recommend this book to anyone who has a special needs child who is attending public school. --By William W. Joslin in TXThis is the book that parents of special needs children have been searching for! When a child does not "fit in the box", parents find that they must search for information on how to care for their child. Just when they have mastered the medical maze, the child begins school and the search for advice and knowledge begins all over again! Children with disabilities who succeed in school have parents who learn to set aside their feelings and clothe themselves in the armor of advocacy. "From Emotions to Advocacy" assists parents in the journey through the special education labyrinth by giving them a focus. Parents learn accurate documentation and record-keeping, productive communication skills, effective tactics and strategies, and Pete and Pam Wright have put it all together into an easy to read, understandable package. Parents who use the process and procedures outlined in "From Emotions to Advocacy" will avoid many of the pitfalls that entrap many parents of special needs children. I wish this book had been available in 1986, not only for my own use, but so that the hundreds of parents I have worked with since then could have benefited from it. If you are the parent or if you know of a parent of a special needs child, do yourself or them a favor. Buy yourself or them this book! --Patricia Howey

Peter Wright and Pamela Wright are Adjunct Professors of law at the William and Mary Law School where they teach a course about special education law and advocacy. They are authors of the best-selling books Wrightslaw: Special Education Law and Wrightslaw: No Child Left Behind. The Wrights provide information and advice about educational law and advocacy at Wrightslaw.com, the #1 ranked special education web site. Pete Wright has represented children with disabilities for more than 30 years. He represented Shannon Carter before the U.S. Supreme Court in Florence County School District IV v. Shannon Carter, 510 U.S. 7 (1993) where he won a landmark victory that has benefited all children with disabilities. Pam Wright is a psychotherapist who has worked with children and families since the 1970's. She writes about raising, educating and advocating for children with disabilities.

There is a lot of things in this book that really resonated with me and helped me become both a better advocate. One was the approach to organizing and reviewing materials in order to be better prepared for IEP and IEE meetings. Another was the evaluation of testing data to determine whether real progress was being made. In that case, I learned a lot about the tests in general and

where gaps may have occurred in my child's education. The section on negotiation strategies also proved helpful to me and I'm sure the letter writing section will be something I will need at some point. This book is full of homework for you, so you don't sit down and read it cover to cover. But, if you do the work, you are going to be a much better advocate. The legal experience of the Wrights is invaluable, and they are sharing it with us for a very reasonable amount. While I didn't need many sections of the book, I'm certain there are others out there who do and I hope they are as helpful as the ones I've completed.

This book has been so helpful in preparing me for transitioning my daughter into preschool. It is very accessible and so easy to understand - you don't need to be a scholar or a lawyer to understand your child's special education rights! A lot of the information pertains to older school age children, obtaining evaluations and using existing test scores to help you down the path of special education, but I still found a lot within these pages that applies to my toddler who is transitioning out of state-provided autism therapy and into a public preschool. Another nice feature is the 'homework assignments' and how-to information on organizing your child's files, understanding test scores and statistics, and creating a master plan for your child's education. It's homework that you'll want to do!

This book was a tremendous help to me while preparing for my daughter's IEP meeting. Using information and templates in the book was very helpful in helping me to advocate for my daughter and obtain resources from the school system that I have been trying to get for years. I highly recommend this book to anyone advocating for a child to receive services pursuant to IDEA. It is written in a manner that is easy to read and understand.

I purchased the e-book because I needed the book fast before a meeting with the school. I like that it was available in both formats. This book is a MUST READ for any parent of a child with a suspected disability. It is written in a clear and easy to understand style. It gives you the information you need to understand the process of determining eligibility for special education services and/or a 504 plan for modifications. It gives good tips on getting yourself organized and how to deal with other parties such as the school administrators. It explains what an IEP is and what an IEP should include. It explains basic statistics and how results can be looked at in several different ways. Before this book I had no clue what my rights as a parent were. I did not know where to go to get that information, either. This book tells you. It is empowering. If you are debating whether or not it is worth it...buy it. Don't hesitate. Buy it now. Seriously.

No Autism or Special Needs Family Should Ever Be Without This Book. EVER. It will change your life.

I found Wrightslaw online as I was searching in desperation for ways to navigate the waters of special education in US public schools; a cold and murky ocean I never anticipated needing to enter. The website's articles were incredibly helpful but I needed much more. This companion book was recommended over and over, and not always by the authors! All over the internet were grateful parents pointing towards this book. Now, I am one of them! Using the information I read here led to well-written letters and successful negotiations with our school personnel. As a stay-home mom who is naturally anxious, uncomfortable with schools and somewhat feisty, I could have really ruined things for my boys as I went through the whole process, \*if\* I'd gone into their spec-ed meetings ignorant of the procedures and full of my own emotions and tensions. Thanks to Pete and Pam and their clear, easy to follow and detailed information, I was able to go into the meetings informed, confident, calm and cooperative, and all sides were able to win. It's frustrating watching kids who are smart and motivated struggle in school; it's extremely rewarding figuring out why and getting them the help they need. I could never have done so alone.

By far one of the best self help books ever in regards to special education. As a parent who has had little success getting the schools support on getting child's needs met, this gives you some really solid tools to work with. I would be lost without this book. If you have a child with an IEP, you need this book ASAP. It's totally worth every penny.

Great Book!

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