

Janet Chapman



I am a native of Springfield, Ohio and now reside in Florence, Kentucky (suburban Cincinnati). I earned both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Morehead State University (Ky.) with an emphasis in Rehabilitation Counseling. I was employed as a vocational rehabilitation counselor (CRC) and administrator for Kentucky's Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for 28 years. Our vocational rehabilitation counselors were very involved with IEP teams in the Northern Kentucky area, working cooperatively with school staff, parents and students to ensure the successful transition of students with disabilities into post-secondary training and employment. For many years, I have worked as a consultant to attorneys and state and federal agencies in issues related to the vocational impact of disability.

In October, 1999 I completed general mediation training through the Lexington (KY) Mediation Center and in October, 2000 was trained by the Justice Center of Atlanta in Special Education Mediation. I have completed advanced training in educational mediation and have participated in several national symposiums sponsored by the Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE) as well as numerous conferences related to legal issues in special education.

My mediation practice is devoted exclusively to work in special education. I have provided mediation services for the Kentucky Department of Education since 2002. In addition to mediation services, I have facilitated IEP team meetings in Kentucky and have extensive experience facilitating stakeholder meetings in Kentucky's efforts to re-define the roles of the Schools for the Deaf (Danville, KY) and Blind (Louisville, KY). From 2002-2004, I provided mediation services for Ohio's Department of Education and have returned to Ohio's mediator roster in 2007.

I offer a facilitative approach to mediation and am committed to seeing participants move from an adversarial relationship to one that is problem-solving. I believe my past experience and training has prepared me to work collaboratively with parents, school staff, students and service providers in an effort to find common ground.