

## SURROGATE PARENTS

To ensure that students' rights are protected, the Bethlehem Central Board of Education (the Board) directs that a surrogate parent will be assigned to represent a student in all matters relating to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of the student and the provision of a free appropriate public education if:

1. no parent can be identified;
2. the Bethlehem Central School District (the District), after reasonable efforts, cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent;
3. the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth; or
4. the student is a ward of the state.

The District will follow the procedures outlined in the accompanying regulation to appoint surrogate parents when the need arises. To ensure that students' rights are protected, the Board directs that a surrogate parent be assigned to represent a student in all matters relating to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of the student and the provision of a free appropriate public education if:

1. no parent can be identified;
2. the District, after reasonable efforts, cannot discover the whereabouts of a parent;
3. the student is an unaccompanied homeless youth; or
4. the student is a ward of the state.

Persons selected as surrogate parents will be chosen from a list of individuals who are eligible and willing to serve as surrogate parents. They will have the knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the student and will have no other interest that could conflict with their duties as to the student. Persons selected as surrogate parents may not be officers, employees, or agents of the District or State Education Department or other agencies involved in the education or care of the student.

*Adoption date: April 2, 2008*

*Revised date: March 20, 2019*