

Cooper, Kathy

From: Smith, James M.
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2010 7:38 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: Regulation #14-522: IRRC# 2878

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#2878

From: Lisa Sportelli [mailto:allaboutean@rcn.com]
Sent: Thursday, November 18, 2010 6:40 PM
To: ra-rtfcomments@state.pa.us
Cc: Smith, James M.
Subject: Regulation #14-522: IRRC# 2878

I have a comment and concern regarding the proposed regulations. My comment is that I am very pleased to see the full time advocate for 48 or equivalent. I am concerned with:

23.32(d): It is important that children not only be informed of the rules, but that it is done, in writing and orally, in a language that the child understands. American Sign Language should be used when necessary.

I am a parent of an 11 year old non verbal child, and I feel that statement could be better defined. I feel that the rules (as well as rights) be explained in whatever format primarily used by the individual. My child uses pictures, an assistive technology device as well as sign language. By the time this bulletin comes to fruition, there will be more and more types of communication systems out there. We know the root of most behaviors comes from a lack of communication. I think if the child was understood, AND understood the rules, many negative situations could be avoided. Great efforts should be taken and multiple attempts and modalities to make the child aware of their rules as well as their rights, as individualized as it needs to be.

Thank you