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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

PYRAMID COMMUNITY PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

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"VICTORIOUS WARRIORS WIN FIRST
AND THEN GO TO WAR, WHILE
DEFEATED WARRIORS GO TO WAR
FIRST AND THEN SEEK TO WIN."

- SUN TZU

The Art of
WAR



SUN TZU

THE FIRST RULE OF
FIGHT CLUB
IS _____.

IEP



THE 1ST RULE TO IEP FIGHT CLUB



WE TALK ABOUT IEP FIGHT CLUB!

COMMON PARENTAL MISTAKES	WHAT IT LOOKS
EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ADVOCACY	Letting emotions override logic and reason can hinder productive discussions with school staff
NOT KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS	Failure to read rights booklet can hinder effective advocacy
NOT COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY	Poor communication can lead to misunderstandings
NOT UNDERSTANDING THE SCHOOL'S PERSPECTIVE	Not taking the time to understand the school's limitations can hinder productive collaboration
FAILING TO BE INFORMED	Not fully understanding child's specific needs can lead to less effective advocacy
LACKING DOCUMENTATION	Not having adequate documentation to support requested services/accommodations can weaken your case
BEING INFLEXIBLE	Not being open to compromise can lead to stalled discussions
ISOLATION	Not seeking support and advice from other parents, support groups, or advocacy organizations can be isolating and limit resources
NOT SEEKING PROFESSIONAL HELP	In complex cases, not seeking advice from SPED attorney or advocate can result in missed opportunities to secure services

WHY WE TALK ABOUT IEP FIGHT CLUB

- To break the silence
- To build community
- To learn from each other
- For support and validation
- Encourage advocacy improvement
- To see the Bigger Picture





The 2nd Rule of IEP Fight Club



Become Informed

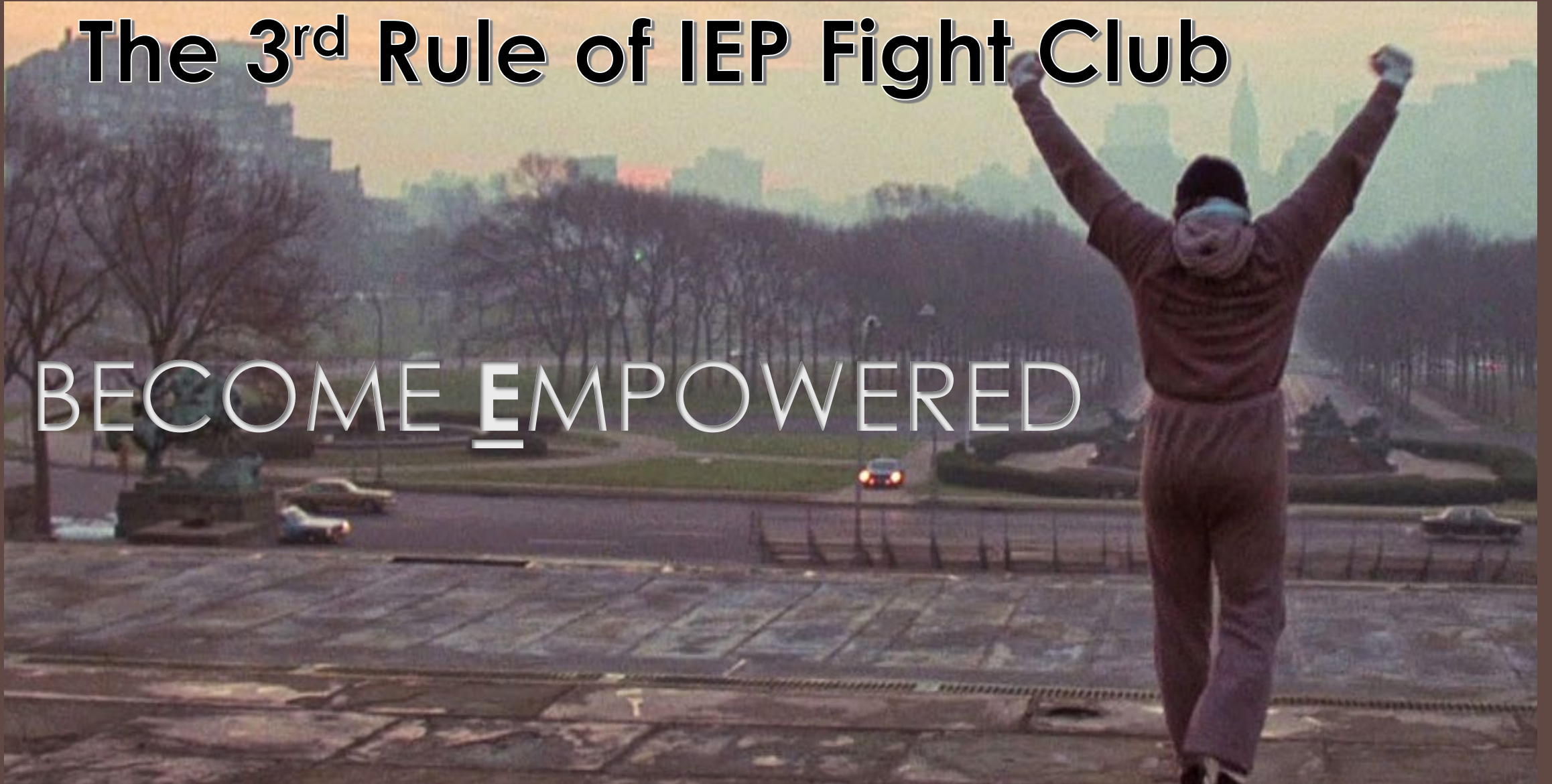
“The reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 is confusing to most parents, educators, related service providers, and even to many advocates and attorneys. Ignorance of the law can be as damaging as the child’s disability.”

- Wrightslaw: Special Education Law 2nd Edition



The 3rd Rule of IEP Fight Club

BECOME EMPOWERED



The 4th Rule of IEP Fight Club

An illustration on a teal background. A large, dark blue arrow points upwards and to the right. A white silhouette of a person is running up the arrow. The arrow is supported by a dark blue rectangular base. The text 'SEEK PROGRESSION' is written in white on the base. There are three white clouds scattered in the sky.

SEEK
PROGRESSION

IN THIS IEP FIGHT CLUB, WE ARE FIGHTING TO:

BECOME INFORMED.

INFORMED PARENTS ARE MORE EMPOWERED.

EMPOWERED PARENTS CAN EXPECT PROGRESSION.



WHERE TO BEGIN:

- [From Emotions to Advocacy](#) by Pam Wright and Pete Wright

- **COPAA** – Council of Parent Attorneys & Advocates
www.copaa.org

*Scholarships are available!

- **Advocates University – Ask A Special Education Attorney on Facebook**

- Local parent training center

Families Helping Families

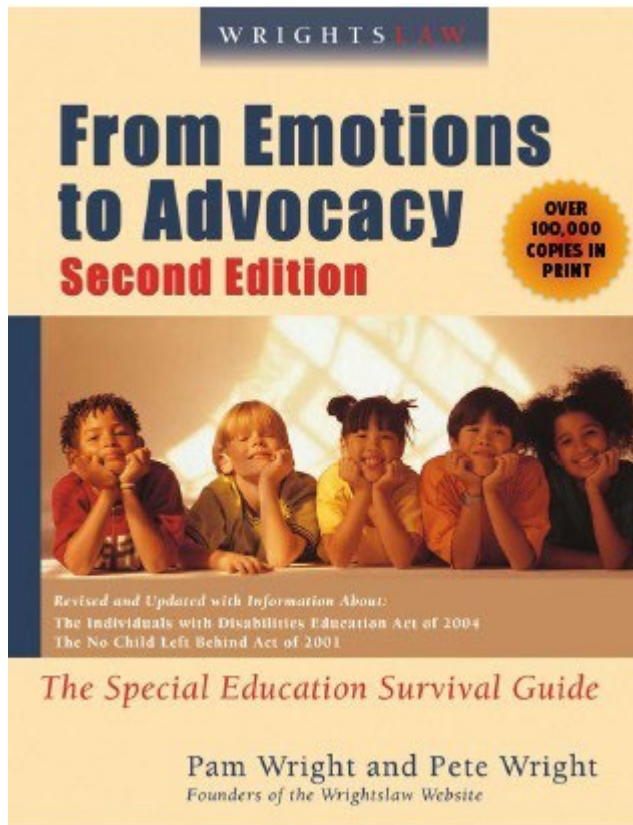
or

Pyramid Community Parent Resource Center

www.pyramidparentcenter.org

- Advocacy Group/ Advocate

- Attorney



THANK YOU, TO OUR PARTNER:



The program provides information and training on special education and disability legislation, through workshops, newsletters, referrals, and one-to-one assistance.

www.pyramidparentcenter.org

www.theieplawyer.com

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OF
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Using the gift of
skilled advocacy to
serve our Families, with
grace and by Grace.

Our home office is in Denham Springs, La.