

How does IDEA define a parent?

A parent has certain rights under federal law, starting with the right to make decisions and participate in their child's education.

01

A biological or adoptive parent of a child.

02

A foster parent, unless the state prohibits a foster parent from acting as a parent.

03

A legal guardian as determined by the Probate Court. A Guardian ad Litem is NOT a parent.

04

A surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with IDEA.

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An individual acting in place of a biological or adoptive parent with whom the child lives, or an individual who is legally responsible.

06

At age 18, a student has the same rights as a parent unless those rights have been modified by court.