

## **Surrogate Parent Program**

Pursuant to the requirements of state law 162.997.999 RSMo, the State Board of Education is required to appoint a surrogate parent at such time as it becomes evident that a child with a disability does not have a parent or a person acting as a parent to participate in matters dealing with the provision of special education. For purposes of surrogate parent appointment, "parent" is defined as a biological parent, a guardian, or a person acting as a parent of a child including, but not limited to, a grandparent, a step parent, or a foster parent with whom the child lives. The term does not include the State if the child is a ward of the State. The term does not include a person whose parental rights have been terminated.

The local school district is given the responsibility to determine when a child with a disability who requires special education and who resides in the district is without a parent. The district must notify the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the need to appoint a surrogate parent. Training for persons as surrogate parents will be provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the district. If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a surrogate parent, more information can be obtained from the district's surrogate contact person, Melynda Van Note, Director of Special Services.