

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUDICIAL BRANCH
NH CIRCUIT COURT
www.courts.nh.gov

PETITIONER: WHAT TO EXPECT
IF THE IEA PETITION IS FILED WITH THE COURT

If an IEA Petition is filed with the Court by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) / Designated Receiving Facility (DRF), the Petitioner can expect:

- The Court to appoint an attorney for the Petitionee.
- The Court to schedule a hearing. The hearing will be held within three (3) days, not including Sundays and Holidays, from the date of the clinician’s signature on the Certificate of Admission which is part of the IEA Petition.
- The Court to email you and all parties a copy of the completed Petition including a Notice of Hearing that will notify you of the hearing date and time. With that email you will also receive information necessary for your participation at the hearing. This email will come from ConcordCircuitIEA@courts.state.nh.us.

It is the Petitioner’s responsibility:

- To notify any witness who submitted a Witness Statement as part of the IEA Petition of the hearing date and time.
- To participate in the hearing, which is required to advance the IEA Petition.

Common Questions/Answers Petitioners Ask:

How can I communicate with the Court about the IEA Petition after it is filed with the Court?

You may either reply to the email that you received from ConcordCircuitIEA@courts.state.nh.us that included a copy of the completed Petition and the notice of hearing with the hearing date and time, or you may call 1-855-212-1234 and ask for IEA Case Managers at the Concord Circuit Court.

What will happen during the hearing on the Petition?

Each hearing is a little different but generally speaking, the judge and the attorney for the Petitionee will ask you questions about the portion of the Petition you completed. After you testify, the judge will hear from any witness who completed the witness portion of the Petition, if you want that person to testify. Next, the judge will hear from the Petitionee’s attorney.

What does it mean to “testify” at the IEA hearing?

Testifying at the IEA hearing means sharing relevant information with the judge about the Petitionee including the descriptions that you put in the Petition. The information you provide must be true to the best of your knowledge and belief.

The Court continued the hearing on the Petition. What does that mean?

This means that a request has been made with the court and the judge has ordered that the hearing be rescheduled to another day. This may happen for a number of different reasons and any party may request a continuance.

What happens if I miss the hearing?

If the hearing is held and you do not attend, the Petition may be dismissed.

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I want to withdraw the Petition after it is filed with the Court. What do I do?

These cases move quickly once the IEA Petition is filed with the court. However, prior to the scheduled hearing you may notify the court and all parties of your intent to withdraw the Petition by “replying all” to the email you received from the court. You may also notify the judge during the scheduled hearing of your request.

Will I receive notice of the Court's decision about the Petition?

Yes. You will receive the Court's decision through the email address you included on the Petition.

Further information –

Additional information may be found on the court's website at www.courts.nh.gov or by calling the court at 1-855-212-1234.