



**FFLIC**

# ISSUE: I WAS INFORMED MY CHILD WILL BE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED.



**Did you receive notice of the suspension or expulsion?**

You have the right to be informed of disciplinary actions taken against your child. This includes: police arrest or detainment, expulsion, suspension, in-school suspension, and removal from the classroom (RS 17:416 and R. 17:406.9). The school must contact the parent/guardian by phone or mail (certified letter in the case of expulsion) and provide: 1) notification of the action taken, 2) reason(s) for the suspension or expulsion, and 3) a scheduled date and time of the school conference or expulsion hearing. Note that the school will contact the person listed on the student's registration card. Also, any child under the age of 18 cannot sign legal documents, (18 Civil Code §29). If a child signs the disciplinary notification, that document is void.

**Suspension**

**Expulsion**

**No, I did not receive notice.**

The OPSB Hearing office strictly scrutinizes a school's expulsion recommendation for compliance. If the school is not compliant, the school has 24hrs to come into compliance, or the hearing office will reject the recommendation. (MDP)

**No, I did not receive notice.**

Disciplinary action must be documented for it to take effect! (RS 17:416 and RS 17:406.9) The school should call you or send a letter home. If they do not, call or email the school. Also, you might ask to review the child's disciplinary record to check for accuracy. You now have notice...

**Yes, I received notice.**

Prepare for the hearing. The student's participation, though voluntary, is extremely important. The student is not required to speak. See OPSB's Manual for Disciplinary Procedures (MDP). FFLIC recommends that you have an advocate or a lawyer present.

**Yes, I received notice.**

Along with documenting the suspension, a school official should have: 1) held an in-school conference with the student, and 2) provided the student with an opportunity to explain their side of the story (RS 17:416).

**Does the punishment given to your child do what it is supposed to do?**

Look at the list of possible discipline actions for the violation and decide if the punishment fits the violation. You can find this information in the following sources:

- Your school's code of conduct
- The OPSB Manual for Disciplinary Procedures (for expulsions)
- Students in Special Education and students receiving 504 Plan accommodations have additional rights and protections in suspension and expulsion proceedings. See the Advocacy Center's "Education Rights of Children with Disabilities in Louisiana: A Guide for Parents."

**Yes, the punishment does what it is supposed to do.**

Even if you are in agreement with the punishment, consider challenging a suspension or expulsion. Suspensions and expulsions have a serious impact on a student's educational progress. Also, do a Whole Child Check-In. Ask what might be done to improve your child's behavior and well-being. What remedies can you begin to put into place?

**No, the punishment does not do what it is supposed to do.**

Challenge the punishment. For suspensions, this will happen at the school conference. For expulsions, at the expulsion hearing.



## QUICK FACT

**Need help advocating for your child?  
Call FFLIC  
504.708.8376.**

### Discipline for uniform violations

Act 248 of 2015 prohibits suspension or expulsion of students in grades PK-5 for certain uniform violations unless the discipline is tied to willful disregard of school policies.

