

The case Honig v. Doe in 1988 addressed two teenagers in the San Francisco Unified School District who both had an emotional disability. They were recommended for expulsion from their school because of their aggression and impulse control issues. Honig v. Doe, who qualified for special educational services under the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (EAHCA), filed a suit against SFSUD, alleging that their disciplinary actions violated the so-called "stay-put" provision because of their behavioral disabilities without proper procedure. Under this provision, children with a disability must remain in their current educational placements during a review proceeding unless the parents and the educational officials both agree otherwise.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-2 on January 20, 1988, that the SFUSD California school board violated the Education for All Handicapped Children Act. Also, the court affirmed that the state must provide services directly to students with disabilities even when local school boards fail to do so. This case was important because it reinforced the right of students with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate education and set important legal guidelines for the discipline of students within the framework of the (IDEA).