

Relations with Law Enforcement and Child Protective Agencies**Law Enforcement Agencies:**

A law enforcement officer shall contact the principal upon entering the school building and present proper identification. If the purpose of a law enforcement official's business is to secure information, the principal or designee will provide "directory information" as stipulated in policy 3600, unless the parent or student over 18 has filed a written objection to the release of directory information. The district will release all relevant records when presented with a subpoena or court order.

Student Interview

As a general rule, interviewing of students should take place at the law enforcement agency or the student's home; however, there are limited circumstances when an interview by law enforcement officials may be conducted at school (for example: school initiated investigations, child abuse investigations, and/or serious crime situations).

1. Students Under 12 Years of Age

- a. Students under 12 years of age who are suspects in a crime may be interviewed only with parent consent. However, students under 12 years of age who are victims of a crime or a witness to a crime may be interviewed without parental consent. Should it become apparent to law enforcement official(s) during the course of a witness-victim interview that the student under 12 years of age is a suspect of a crime, the interview shall immediately terminate until parent consent to continue the interview has been obtained.
- b. In conformance with the above, if a witness-victim interview occurs at the school the following shall be observed:
 - (1) The principal or designee will make a reasonable effort to notify the parent of the interview provided that such notification, in the opinion of the law enforcement official(s), will not hinder the investigation.
 - (2) When prior notice is made to the parent, any expression of objection to the interview made by the parent will be conveyed to the law enforcement officer(s). The principal or designee may not, by law, prevent the interview and will so notify the parent.
 - (3) The principal or designee must be present if the parent is not present unless the student specifically requests otherwise.

2. Students 12 Years of Age and Over

- a. Washington State law permits students 12 years of age and over to be interviewed by law enforcement officials without parent consent.
- b. If the student is interviewed at school the following shall be observed:
 - (1) The principal or designee will make a reasonable effort to notify the parent of the interview provided that such notification, in the opinion of the law enforcement official(s), will not hinder the investigation.
 - (2) When prior notice is made to the parent, any expression of objection to the interview made by the parent will be conveyed to the law enforcement official(s). The principal or designee may not, by law, prevent the interview and will so notify the parent.

- (3) The principal or designee must be present if the parent is not present unless the student specifically requests otherwise.

Student Arrest

Law enforcement officials must report to the principal or designee when entering a school and explain the nature of his/her business. Administrative personnel will cooperate and provide assistance as necessary. If the law enforcement official wishes to see a student, he/she should request that the principal or designee bring the student to him/her. If the student refuses to accompany the school official, then the law enforcement officer may make an arrest as discreetly as possible. Parents shall be notified by the principal or designee that their child is in custody, by telephone or in person.

Child Protective Agencies:

A Child Protective Services (CPS) worker must contact the principal and check in with the office upon entering a school building. The CPS worker must present proper identification. A CPS worker who is investigating a report of abuse or neglect will be granted access to all relevant records of a child. This is required under RCW 26.44.030(11).

While the District encourages interviews of students to take place off school premises, the school shall permit a CPS worker to conduct any questioning when child abuse or neglect is involved. CPS will make an effort to notify the school prior to their intent to interview a child.

CPS will make reasonable efforts to have a designee from the school observe the interview as long as the child does not object and the presence of the school designee will not jeopardize the investigation. If a school designee is present during the interview, the school designee will observe only and will not interject while the child is present.

Parental notification of the interview must occur at the earliest possible point in the investigation that will not jeopardize the safety/protection of the child or the course of the investigation. Such notification is the responsibility of the CPS worker who is conducting the investigation.

A CPS worker is required to have a lawful order to take the child into custody. However, if the CPS worker is accompanied by a law enforcement officer, no order shall be required. In the event a student is taken into custody parental notification shall occur and such notification shall be the responsibility of the law enforcement or child protective agency.

CPS will keep the Richland School District apprised as to the placement and legal status, as well as, any court orders regarding parent/child contact of a child in CPS's custody as long as the child remains in the Richland School District.