

FREMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ENROLLMENT AND RESIDENCY OFFICE
GUARDIANSHIP OPTIONS

What do I do if a child is living with me, but I am not the parent or legal guardian?

Sometimes, parents are not able to take care of their child. This can occur when one or both parents:

- have a serious physical or mental illness,
- are in the military and have been deployed out of state,
- are enrolled in a rehabilitation facility,
- are going to jail or prison,
- have a drug or alcohol abuse problem,
- have a history of abuse,
- are experiencing serious financial problems, or
- are unable to care for their child for some other reason.

All students, however, must have a parent/legal guardian to perform/accept the following school related duties and responsibilities:

1. In case of accident, disaster, or emergency of any kind, to make decisions as to what is to be done with and for the student;
2. To sign all reports, including report cards, excused absence or tardiness, work permits and all other documents which require a parent's or guardian's signature;
3. To discuss confidential matters with school officials/employees, such as performance in courses, grade information, testing results, program placement, etc;
4. Accept the obligation and responsibility for and pay all expenses incurred by the child as a part of the regular and necessary school activities;
5. Assume all obligations in respect to discipline and control of the child;
6. Accept responsibility to insure school attendance and assume liability for all misdemeanor prosecutions under Section 12451 et. seq. of the Education Code
7. To pay for any damages caused by the child pursuant to the Education Code;
8. To authorize school related medical care

There are several options available for adult to assume the above listed responsibilities for a minor child. Below is a list options you may explore. Please keep in mind that this is not an exhaustive list, rather a sampling of available options. The decision to care for another's child is a personal one and the Fremont Union High School District cannot provide legal advice in these matters.

Court authorized Legal guardian

The guardian is responsible for the child's care, including:

- Food, clothing and shelter
- Safety and protection
- Physical and emotional growth
- Medical and dental care
- Education and any special needs
- Behavior and damages caused by the child

For more information on becoming a legal guardian, go to <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp> .

Court Appointed Custodian

Has full legal custody of the child and accepts all rights for the child's care. Normally used in divorce proceedings. You can petition the courts to be appointed the Legal Custodian of a child.

For more information on becoming a legal custodian, go to <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp> .

Adoptive Parent

Adoptions in California can be done by licensed public or private agencies. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) also places children for adoption. In order for the agency to place a child for adoption, the child's birth parents must have their parental rights terminated. A court can terminate rights and parents can relinquish their own rights to their child.

For more information on adoption, go to <http://california.adoption.com/> .

Other Options

For more information, including additional options, please make an appointment with the Residency and Enrollment Office:

589 W. Fremont Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(408) 522-2266