

Students

Cooperation with Department of Children and Family Service

This Policy provides guidance to school administrators regarding Department of Children and Family Service (DCFS) officials interviewing students on school premises during the school day or at school related activities.

1. The Building Principal will check the agent’s credentials and any documents pertaining to legal process.
2. The Building Principal will attempt to contact the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) and inform him or her that the student is subject to an interview, if appropriate.
3. When DCFS is investigating allegations made against a student’s parent, guardian or other member of the student’s household, a parent’s or guardian’s consent for the DCFS interview at the school is not necessary. In such case, the Principal shall ask the DCFS agent to provide a signed statement to the building administrator stating that the student’s parent, guardian or household member is being investigated for alleged abuse or neglect and that the DCFS agent has requested that the student’s parent or guardian not be contacted.
4. Interviews will be conducted in a private setting. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) is absent, the Building Principal and/or the Principal’s designee may be present during the interview.
5. The student may be removed from school by the DCFS agent if circumstances warrant. A local law enforcement agency officer, designated DCFS employee, or a physician treating a child may take or retain temporary protective custody of the child without the consent of the person responsible for the child’s welfare, if: (1) he or she has reason to believe that the child’s circumstances or conditions are such that continuing in his or her place of residence or in the care and custody of the person responsible for the child’s welfare, presents an imminent danger to that child’s life or health; (2) the person responsible for the child’s welfare is unavailable or has been asked and does not consent to the child’s removal from his or her custody; or (3) there is not time to apply for a court order under the Juvenile Court Act for temporary custody of the child. The person taking or retaining a child in temporary protective custody shall immediately make every reasonable effort to notify the person responsible for the child’s welfare and shall immediately notify the Department.
6. No District employee may act as a DCFS agent.

LEGAL REF.: 325 ILCS 5/1 et seq.

Adopted: November 24, 2009

Revised: March 22, 2016