

GUIDELINES FOR OUTSIDE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES INTERVIEWING CHILDREN AT THE SCHOOL

The Piedmont Board of Education recognizes that the primary function of the Piedmont Public Schools is to educate the students in a secure, non-threatening environment. For this purpose, the Board requests that interviewing of students by any outside agency at the school be kept to a minimum. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school representatives in fostering a trusting relationship with the parents of the students. Promoting trust and open communication with the parents is essential to the student's education. The following criteria are established to minimize the disruption to the student, while still protecting the student from any abusive situations arising outside the school setting:

1. The principal/designee will inquire of the agency representative whether it is necessary to interview the student during the school day and on school grounds, and request that the interviewing be done outside of the school day if possible.
2. All outside agency representatives (DHS, Child Welfare, Law Enforcement, etc.) seeking authority to interview a student at school must receive authorization to do so from the building principal, or designee.
3. If a child abuse report is received while the student is in school, the principal/designee will allow agency representatives access to the student. Identification should be requested from the person seeking to interview the student at school from any person unknown to the principal/designee. If the principal/designee is uncomfortable with the person seeking to interview the student, or that person's credentials, or if the principal/designee perceives that conditions or circumstances are not in the student's best interest, access to the student should be denied until further information or clarification can be obtained.
4. It is not required that the parents be notified prior to allowing the agency representative access to the student, however the principal/designee may determine that it is in the best interest of the child to do so. If an agency representative produces a court order to interview the student, the principal/designee must comply without notifying the parent. The court order relieves the school district, its officials and employees, from any legal responsibility.
5. An agency representative may not physically remove a student from the school without a court order or prior notification of the parents.

REFERENCE: 10 O.S. §7102-7106

NOTE: 10 O.S. §7105 states that “[a]ny person who, in good faith and exercising due care, allows access to a child by persons authorized to investigate a report concerning the child shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed.”