

## Custody FAQ's

**1) A child who is not my biological child is coming to live with me. His/her custodial parent resides elsewhere. Can I enroll this child into Worthington Schools?**

*No. You would need to obtain custody/guardianship of the child and, as required by Ohio law, proof of custody must be provided at the time of enrollment. Please contact Franklin County Clerk of Courts at 614.525.4410 for further details.*

**2) I have a motion for custody. Can I enroll my child with a court ordered motion?**

*If the motion is court filed and stamped with a future hearing date, typically within 60 to 90 days, yes, we can accept this motion until the final court documents are completed once the hearing takes place.*

**3) I am the biological father of a child and wish to enroll him/her in school. The biological mother and I were never married. What do I need to do?**

*Proof of custody must be provided at the time of enrollment in order to enroll your child(ren). In the State of Ohio, if parents were never married, the mother is automatically the sole custodial parent unless the father goes to court and obtains an order of custody (ORC 3109I.04.3). Please contact Franklin County Clerk of Courts at 614.525.4410 for further details.*

**4) My spouse/significant other and I are currently separated. Where do we need to enroll our child(ren) in school?**

*If you and your spouse are still legally married, either parent may enroll their child in either district in which the parent is residing without legal documentation. If, however, there are any court ordered legal documents assigning a specific parent to be the "residential parent for school placement purposes," the person identified as such needs to enroll their child(ren) accordingly.*

**5) A relative/friend provided me with a notarized letter giving me custody of his / her child. Is that acceptable as proof of custody?**

*No. We cannot accept notarized statements for proof of custody. You must have a court filed and stamped legal documents. Please contact Franklin County Clerk of Courts at 614.525.4410 for further details (refer to question #1).*

**6) My former spouse and I have shared parenting. We live in two different school districts. Can my child attend either district?**

*The child must attend school in the district of the "residential parent for school placement purposes." This is standard verbiage in a divorce/separation agreement and the divorce/separation agreement that was established between you and your former spouse determines school district placement/assignment for your child.*

**7) I am divorced and the children live with me. I am the sole custodial parent. I do not want the non-custodial parent to have access to our child(ren)'s school records. Is this acceptable?**

*No. According to Ohio law, a non-custodial parent has the same rights as a custodial parent; therefore, the non-custodial parent has a right to access student records. The only exception to this is if you have a protection order or restraining order which would not allow access by the other parent. If you have such an order and wish for us to honor your request, the school MUST have a copy of the order. Otherwise, we cannot deny the non-custodial parent rights to student records.*

**8) I have a court order/judgment entry giving me custody of a child. However, it is not signed by a judge. Is this acceptable?**

*No. The court order must be court filed and stamped as well as signed by a judge or magistrate in order for the court order to be considered valid.*