



Protection of Information for Unaccompanied Youth under McKinney-Vento

1. McKinney-Vento Act (42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.)

- Protects unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) and requires that schools remove barriers to their enrollment and education.
- Schools must protect the privacy of students experiencing homelessness, including information about their living situation and location.
- Disclosure of a student's living arrangement or location without consent can endanger the youth, especially in cases of family conflict, abuse, or neglect.

2. FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §1232g)

- Generally gives parents access to their minor child's educational records (if the student is under 18 and not emancipated).
- However, FERPA allows — but does not require — disclosure to parents.
- Schools may withhold information if disclosure would conflict with federal protections such as McKinney-Vento or pose a safety risk to the student.

3: Provide General (Not Specific) Information When Possible

- If there is no safety concern, and the student consents, you may confirm educational status (e.g., "The student remains enrolled and is attending classes") without disclosing their address or living arrangement.
- If the student objects, consult the liaison and possibly child protective services (CPS) if necessary.

4: Document Carefully

- Document:
 - The parent's request
 - The student's unaccompanied status
 - Liaison consultation and the decision made
 - Keep these records confidential and secure.
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STUDENT & FAMILY SERVICES

INFORMATION

When the Student Is 17 Years Old

1. At 17, the student is still a minor, but under McKinney-Vento, they have the right to self-identify and make educational decisions if they are unaccompanied.
2. This means the school must treat the youth as the educational decision-maker — including decisions about information sharing.

MEANING:

The **youth's consent** is required before releasing **location or contact information**.

The **parent's request** alone does **not compel disclosure** if it conflicts with the youth's safety or McKinney-Vento rights.

Policy Statement

In accordance with the **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.)** and the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 U.S.C. §1232g)**, the Lee County School System shall protect the privacy and safety of students who are identified as **unaccompanied homeless youth**.

When a student under age 18 becomes unaccompanied:

- The student is permitted to act as their own educational decision-maker under McKinney-Vento.
- The district shall not disclose the student's current address, living arrangement, or contact information to any parent, guardian, or outside party without the student's consent, unless required by law or necessary to protect the student's health or safety.
- Requests for such information shall be referred to the district's McKinney-Vento liaison, who will determine whether disclosure is legally and ethically appropriate.

This policy is intended to safeguard unaccompanied youth from potential harm, maintain educational stability, and ensure compliance with federal student privacy protections.

Do not release the student's address, location, or contact information to any individual (including parents/guardians) unless:

- The **district McKinney-Vento liaison** authorizes release, and
- The **student provides written consent**, or
- Disclosure is **required by a court order** or **needed for health/safety reasons**.