

INTERVIEW OF STUDENTS BY CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES / PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Background

It is the responsibility of the Principal to be concerned with the well being of all students and to safeguard their rights. Interviews of school students by outside agencies will be permitted when circumstances make such interviews essential.

Procedures

1. A representative of an outside agency shall be directed to report to the office of the Principal, to make known the purpose of their visit.
2. Interviews of students during school hours by outside agencies will occur when the Principal believes it to be in the student's best interests.
3. In the case of investigations involving child abuse in which the worker is determining if the child is in need of protection, parents or guardians shall not be contacted in advance of an interview. It is up to the child protection organization personnel to ensure that appropriate action is taken.
4. When it is deemed necessary for a Child and Family Services worker to interview a student in a school the following protocol shall be followed:
 - 4.1 The Principal shall be contacted and appropriate arrangements (suitable time, arrangements to monitor privacy and confidentiality) will be made for the interview to take place.
 - 4.2 Prior to the interview the child will be asked by the Child and Family Services worker if he or she would wish to have a staff member present. If this is the case, the Principal will make arrangements for the staff member to attend the interview with the understanding that the staff member is not to participate in the interview in any way.
 - 4.3 Following the interview, the Child and Family Services worker is required to contact the parent and inform the parent of the nature of the allegation.
 - 4.4 The worker will be asked to contact the Principal to confirm that the worker informed the parents following the interview.
5. In cases not involving the safety of the interviewee, prior to an interview with outside agencies (i.e., RCMP), the Principal shall contact the student's parents or guardians to inform them a request has been made to interview their child. The interview shall not be permitted without the consent of the parents or guardians.
6. The Principal shall keep a written record indicating the date, time and identity of the individuals involved in interviews with a student.

Reference: Section 20, 45, 60, 61, School Act
Child Youth and Family Enhancement Act
Youth Criminal Justice Act