

Child Custodial Agreement

Confrontations that occur as parents come to school to enact a change in custody arrangements for their child are disruptive to the school environment as well as upsetting to the child involved. On many occasions the child is unaware of the impending change and is unsettled because of the sudden uprooting from a familiar environment. Occasionally, the parent is a disturbing influence in the school setting. Unfortunately, if a law enforcement officer is involved, it heightens the anxiety of the child involved and other students in the school. This policy will help to alleviate this disruption to the school environment. It is important to emphasize that whenever possible every effort should be made to settle custody disputes outside of the school setting.

1. Parents who come to the school or call the school with information that a child is leaving because of a change in custodial arrangements should be informed that the Lake County Sheriff's Department oversees the process. The parent will be directed to go to the Sheriff's office.
2. The Sheriff or law enforcement officer will check the custodial decree and also check to see if there is any pertinent restraining orders.
3. If the Officer-in-Charge suspects that a confrontation may occur at the school, he will call the school. After receiving this call, the Supervising Teacher will determine if the child should be removed from the classroom and placed in a safe location until a decision is made.
4. The Sheriff or Officer-in-Charge will notify the school about the custodial change. If the circumstances are questionable, the Principal will "call back" to verify that the call came from the Sheriff's office.
5. Whenever possible, the officer will attempt to work around the child's school schedule in order to minimize the disruption for the child, the classroom teacher and students. The Sheriff's Department will decide on the appropriateness of calling the parent or guardian who was the former caretaker of the child.
6. If a custody change is to be made during the school day and the child will be leaving the District, the school Principal will be responsible for removing the child from the classroom and/or school. The child may be taken to a neutral location (agreed upon by the deputy and the Principal) for "pick up" by the custodial parent.

Policy History:

Adopted on: 2008-09

Revised on: 11-2018