

AP 355 – INTERVIEWING STUDENTS AT SCHOOL BY POLICE OR CHILD WELFARE

Background

Interviews of students at school by police officers or child welfare workers will be permitted in accordance with pertinent legislation.

Procedures

1. It is the responsibility of the Principal to safeguard the rights and well-being of every student in the school. Any request from an officer or social services to interview a child, or staff member, shall be referred to the principal.
2. The principal (or designate) will work with the child protection worker and/or police to make the necessary arrangements for a confidential interview to occur. Interviews of students by police or child welfare workers will be permitted where circumstances make such interviews essential.
3. It is expected that police officers or child welfare workers will not request interviews with students at the school if arrangements can be made by them for the interview to take place at an alternate location outside of school hours.
4. A written confirmation may be provided to the school principal by the child protection worker and/or police. All written information provided shall be retained. The written information could include interview arrangements, acknowledgment of the assistance of the principal, and outcome of the investigation with respect to the child in the school setting. If written information is provided it shall be retained in school office files.
5. A police officer effecting a proper arrest or in possession of a search warrant may enter upon school property and carry out his/her duties pursuant to the warrant. A police officer may enter school property if he/she is in "hot pursuit" of someone who is alleged to have committed a crime and is or may be on school property. The police officer shall notify the Principal at the first opportunity.
6. A police officer or child welfare worker entering school property for any reason shall apprise the Principal of the reason for and nature of the visit before contacting any students.
7. A child welfare worker investigating a complaint of neglect or abuse of a child may enter school property and carry out his/her duties pursuant to the investigation. Any communication or contact with the parent or guardians in regard to alleged abuse and/or neglect is the responsibility of the investigating agency.
8. Prior to an interview with a child, the Principal shall work with the police/child protection worker to determine who will be at the interview and will consider the child's support needs and comfort level. By being at the interview, there is a possibility that the staff member may be subpoenaed to give testimony at a child protection hearing or criminal proceeding.

9. If a student is apprehended without the knowledge of the parent, and the parent inquires about the student's whereabouts, the Principal may provide the name and telephone number of the child protection worker.
10. The Principal shall keep a written log of all interviews of students by police officers and child welfare workers that take place at school.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 175 Education Act
Child And Family Services Act
Youth Criminal Justice Act
Saskatchewan Child Abuse Protocol 2014