

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

STUDENT INTERVIEWS BY POLICE AND CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

BACKGROUND

In providing services to students and the school community, it sometimes becomes necessary for Police or Child Protection Services to interview students during school hours.

POLICY

The Board expects staff to co-operate with the Police and Child Protection Services in carrying out their duties by permitting interviews of students on school premises. Interviews on school premises will be conducted in the presence of a parent/guardian and/or an adult who advocates for the student.

GUIDELINES

1. The Board expects that interviews by external agencies will be conducted in a manner that respects the student's rights and dignity.
2. When an interview is being conducted on school property, the interview should be conducted in a confidential and private manner, and ***may be*** in the presence of a parent/guardian and/or an adult who ~~advocates~~ ***accompanies*** ~~for~~ the student.
3. When the interview involves the investigation of a crime, the parents/guardians shall be immediately advised of their child's involvement with the Police or Child Protection Services, except in situations of suspected child abuse.

**Approved & Adopted:
September 7, 2004**

**Revised:
December 17, 2013**

Revised:

MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

TITLE: Student Interviews by Police and Child Protection Services	POLICY REFERENCE: 667 Student Interviews by Police and Child Protection Services
PROCEDURE CODE: 667 P 001	

PROCEDURES

No person except police officers, *Southern Alberta Child and Family Services case workers and investigators* or the parent/guardian of the student shall be permitted to interview a student on school premises. ~~Under some circumstances, Child and Family Services authorities may interview students in schools.~~

1. Interview/Interrogation of students in schools by police officers
 - a. In the absence of the parent/guardian, the principal or designate must sit in on interviews where the child is under 12 years of age.
 - b. The principal or designate does not have the automatic right to be present at interviews involving students over 12 years. The principal or designate cannot assume or state that he or she is the student's representative/advocate in the interview; selection of person/counsel is the student's right.
 - c. If the student requests the principal or another staff member to be present during the interview, it is advised that the individual comply "in loco parentis". However, the staff member is not obligated. Therefore, if the request is refused, the student may select some other adult to be present.
 - d. The principal or designate can request to 'sit in' on the interview, as a silent observer. The police officer would then be responsible to inform the student of the request. If the student did not consent, the principal or designate may then:
 - i. Determine to let the interview go ahead without the principal or designate in attendance, or
 - ii. Request that the interview be removed from the school premises.
 - e. ~~If a student requests the attendance of another student at an interrogation, and the student being requested to attend is under 18 years of age (attending minor), permission shall be obtained from the attending minor's parents/guardians to participate.~~

- f. ~~e.~~ Before removing a student from the school, the police officer should communicate with the parent/guardian and inform them of the course of action ~~taken~~.
2. Interviews by Southeast Alberta Child & Family Services Caseworker
- a. ***Clarification from*** ~~The~~ Child & Family Services Caseworker should be ~~questioned~~ ***sought*** as to the urgency or need of the matter and if it is not urgent or a need is not shown, ~~advised that~~ ***then*** arrangements should be made to conduct the interview outside of school premises.
 - b. If the Child & Family Services Caseworker provides information to indicate that the matter is urgent and that there needs to have the interview take place during school hours on school premises, the principal ***or designate*** ~~at their discretion,~~ should arrange for the attendance of the student.
 - ~~c.~~ ~~The principal or designate shall inform the child of the right to refuse the interview or refuse to answer questions during the interview.~~
 - ~~d.~~ ~~If the child is a juvenile, (under the age of 16 years), the principal or designate shall attempt to contact the parent/guardian to advise them of the situation to request their attendance.~~
 - ~~e.~~ c. In the event of an investigation of suspected parental child abuse, the best interests of the child must be paramount. The principal shall ascertain if it is in the best interests of the child to contact the parents/guardians and if not, no contact shall be made.
 - ~~f.~~ d. The principal or designate ~~should~~ ***may*** be present during the interview where they have ascertained, in consultation with the child, that it is in the best interest of the child to have school personnel present.
 - ~~g.~~ e. A written record shall be kept indicating the identity of the Child & Family Services Case Worker, date and the reason the interview occurred.
 - ~~h.~~ If a student requests the attendance of another student at an interview, and the student being requested to attend is under 18 years of age (attending minor), ~~permission shall be obtained from the attending minor's parents/guardians in order to participate.~~

Approved:
May 17, 2005

Revised:
December 17, 201