

**Law Enforcement and Social Service Questioning of Students
Board of Education
Wrightstown Community School District**

The Wrightstown Community School District recognizes that cooperation with external law enforcement and social service agencies is necessary for the education and protection of students, for maintaining a safe environment in the schools, and for safeguarding all school property. At the same time, the District recognizes its responsibility to protect the educational process and to provide for the concerns of parents/guardians regarding the welfare of their children. It is the intent of this policy to maintain and support the legal process while not compromising student respect, safety, and confidentiality.

It is the policy of the district that, as much as possible, law enforcement and social service agency contact with students be made outside of the school, except when the district initiates the contact, or when appropriate regarding suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. When it is necessary to make contact in the school, the law enforcement and/or social service agency shall explain to the building principal or designee the reason why a need exists to make contact with the student at school.

The Wisconsin Attorney General has determined that parents or guardians of minors do not have an absolute right to be notified prior to their children being questioned. However, reasonable and appropriate attempts will be made to notify parents/guardians of any student who is interviewed by a law enforcement officer.

When law enforcement or social service personnel conduct an interview or interrogation related to child abuse and neglect issues, parental/guardian notification shall not occur.

When contact takes place on school premises, it shall be done at a time and place designated by the building principal or designee with minimum disruption to the educational program. There will be a reasonable attempt to protect the privacy of the student. Interviews with students may include members of school staff if requested by law enforcement, the student, or the parent/guardian.

Outside agency personnel may remove a student from school during the school day only in the following situations:

- Law Enforcement: With parental/guardian permission; or a warrant issued for student's arrest; or an official order of the judge for removal
- Social Services: With parental/guardian permission; or if the student is under the legal/physical custody of the agency represented

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- Law Enforcement or Authorized Agency: If the student is in a state of emergency (mentally ill, suspected drug dependent, probability of harm to him/herself or others)

A copy of the order permitting law enforcement or other authorized agency to remove the student from school and place him/her in emergency detention shall be left with the principal or designee. Parents/guardians shall be notified of the student's removal from school premises.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statutes [48.19; 48.981 (3)(b)(c); 51.12; 118.125; 118.127; 120.13 (1); 938.396; 946.40; 946.4]
Wisconsin Attorney General Opinion [79 AG 49 –1990; 81 AG 126, 132-133 – 1994]

Adopted: 4/18/2012
Reviewed: 2/21/2018
Revised: