

INTERVIEWS OF STUDENTS BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, students may not be interviewed during the school day by persons other than school district officials and employees.

Requests from law enforcement officers and from persons other than parents, school district officials, and employees to interview students are to be made through the principal's office. Upon receiving a request, it is the responsibility of the principal or assistant principal to determine whether the request will be granted.

A building principal or assistant principal may exercise her/his discretion in determining whether to request assistance of a School Resource Officer in investigating a crime, or the allegation of a crime, committed in her/his school building and/or on school grounds.

All law enforcement-student contacts will be held within strict compliance with the requirements of Chapter 232, Juvenile Justice Code, and all other applicable portions of the Code of Iowa. Iowa law states that a parent must be notified if the student is 15 years old or younger and that a good faith effort to notify must be made on the part of the officer if the student is 16 or 17. If the student is 18 or older and an interrogation is going to be conducted, the suspect may waive his/her own rights and no parents will be contacted by the officer.

The Board recognizes the responsibility of law enforcement officials, when authorized by law, to enforce and administer the juvenile and criminal justice codes. Whenever possible, the investigation of incidents occurring outside of school is to be conducted by law enforcement officials off school premises. When it is necessary for non-school officers to make contact at a school, every effort will be made to contact and work through the assigned School Resource Officer and the building administrator.

If a child abuse investigator (Department of Human Services worker) wishes to interview a student, the principal or assistant principal will defer to the investigator's judgment as to whether the student should be interviewed independently from the student's parents, whether the school is the most appropriate setting for the interview, and who will be present during the interview.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232; 280.17 (2014).
281 I.A.C. 102.
441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

Cross Reference: 402.2 Child Abuse Reporting
502.10 Search and Seizure
503 Student Discipline
902.4 Students and the News Media

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