

RCMP/POLICE INTERVIEWS OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to provide clear and consistent direction for school administrators when RCMP/Police interviews involving students occur on school property. The procedure is intended to support effective collaboration with law enforcement while safeguarding students' legal rights, dignity, safety, and well-being, ensuring appropriate parent/guardian involvement, and minimizing disruption to the educational environment.

School District ("District") and RCMP/Police work collaboratively to maintain safe school environments. RCMP/Police members are essential partners in supporting students, staff, and families in matters related to safety both within school settings and in the broader community.

Students may become involved in the RCMP/Police interview process in several capacities. School-based administrators are responsible for ensuring that these procedures are applied consistently and appropriately if the RCMP/Police request an interview with a student at school. This procedure is written for school administrators; other staff members are not to assume these responsibilities.

PROCEDURES

Except in urgent circumstances where immediate contact with the administrator is impracticable, all RCMP/Police contact with students on school property must occur with the prior knowledge and consent of the school administrator. Upon notification from the RCMP/Police the administrator will contact the student's parent/guardian, where possible, before the interview begins.

Administrators will encourage RCMP/Police members to conduct interviews outside of instructional hours and at locations other than the school, such as the student's residence or the local RCMP/Police detachment, whenever reasonably possible. Police officers do not have the authority to interview students at school without the permission of the school administrator. If an interview must occur at the school, it shall take place in a private and appropriate setting.

Administrators must maintain detailed records of all police contact with students, including the student's name, the officer's name, and police file number, the circumstances leading to the contact, and all attempts to notify parent/guardian.

Administrators must notify the Superintendent of Schools, or designate, of any significant RCMP/Police involvement.

Students Who Are Witnesses, Complainants, or Providers of Information

It is the administrator's responsibility to inform the parent/guardian prior to the commencement of an interview of this nature. Parents/guardians shall be offered the opportunity to attend the interview and may refuse consent for the interview to proceed.

- a. If a parent/guardian wishes to attend but is temporarily unavailable, the administrator should request that the RCMP/Police delay the interview until their attendance is possible.
- b. In emergency circumstances, with consent from both the student and the parent/guardian, the administrator may attend in place of the parent/guardian solely to provide support to the student.

Students Who Are Possible Suspects in Criminal Activity

- a. Students suspected of involvement in criminal activity should be interviewed at the RCMP/Police detachment or at their residence rather than at school. If this is not feasible, the RCMP/Police are responsible for notifying parent/guardian prior to the interview. The administrator must confirm that such contact has occurred.
- b. If parent/guardian is unable or unwilling to attend, the student must be informed of their legal rights, including the right to counsel, the right to have an adult of present (which may include the administrator), and the right to decline answering questions. Under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, a youth has the option to decline the presence of an adult.
- c. If an administrator is present, they must not participate in questioning, nor give the appearance of representing police interests or influencing the evidence.
- d. Arrests should occur off school property and out of public view whenever possible. When this is not possible, administrators will work collaboratively with RCMP/Police members to minimize disruption and protect the privacy of all parties.
- e. Administrators must coordinate with the arresting officer to ensure that parent/guardian are contacted at the earliest possible opportunity.
- f. Administrators must notify the Superintendent of Schools or designate of any significant RCMP/Police intervention.

Emergency Circumstances

When immediate action is necessary to ensure imminent safety, administrators must allow RCMP/Police members to conduct investigative procedures without impediment. In high-risk situations, advance notification to parent/guardian may not be feasible. In these circumstances, administrators will consult with their zone lead.

REFERENCE LEGISLATION AND POLICY

- [School Act](#) (Sections 6, 7, 20, 22, 26, 65, 85)
- [Youth Justice Act](#)
- [Canadian Bill of Rights](#)
- [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)
- [Youth Criminal Justice Act](#) (Canada)

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