

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS IN SCHOOL

Schools are responsible for students during school hours. This includes the responsibility to protect each student's constitutional rights, to assure due process is observed in regard to questioning and arrest, and to protect the student from any form of illegal coercion.

The law states that no one has the right to interrupt the educational process, but if a policeman is actively pursuing a crime, and time is an important factor, the school may allow a child who is not a suspect to be interviewed prior to parental notification. Furthermore, if the school district initiates the contact with the police, the same exception to parental notification may take place, if the school authorities believe that there is clearly a need to do so.

Therefore, when police are investigating possible criminal acts which did occur, or may have occurred, on school property, or while under the jurisdiction of the Plainfield Public Schools, they may question students at school when the following procedures are observed.

1. When the student(s) is the victim, the parents must be notified as soon as possible.
2. When the student(s) is the accused and under age 18, the parents must be notified prior to the interview so that they may be present during the questioning by the police.
3. Student(s) who may have witnessed a crime, may be questioned by the police but parents must be notified by the school as soon as possible.
4. The building principal (or designee) will be present during the questioning by the police.
5. Students must be questioned as confidentially and inconspicuously as possible.

When investigating a possible criminal violation occurring off school grounds or not part of a school program, police will be encouraged to question students in their homes; however, even under those conditions, they may be permitted to question students in the schools when the procedures outlined in items 1-5 above are observed. In all cases every effort will be made to avoid interference with the investigation, but the rights of parents and children should be protected by all concerned.

Proposed: 12/14/94
Adopted: 1/11/95
Revised: 3/10/99
Reaffirm: 3/11/15