

Enrollment and Withdrawal Procedures in Cases of Custody Disputes

Parents who are involved in court proceedings where the custody of their child is at issue should provide Hawthorn Academy (the "School") with the most recent court order (e.g., divorce decree, custody order, or protective order) or signed legal document (e.g., stipulation or settlement agreement) governing custody.

Enrollment and Withdrawal With a Legal Document

In the event there is a legal document governing custody, the School will make its best effort to abide by the court order or signed legal document, including any provisions concerning enrollment, withdrawal, or which parent may make decisions affecting the education of their child.

When there is a court order or signed legal document providing that both parents have equal rights with respect to educational decisions affecting their child (including with respect to enrollment and withdrawal), the School will grant one parent's request to enroll or withdraw his or her child only if (a) the other parent consents to the enrollment or withdrawal; or (b) the parent obtains and provides to the School a new court order or signed legal document indicating that that parent has the right to make that decision.

Enrollment Without a Legal Document

The School understands that enrollment may come at a time when parents involved in a custody dispute have not yet been able to obtain a court order or signed legal document governing the custody of their child. Under such circumstances the School will not "choose sides" between parents or become unnecessarily involved in their dispute; rather, the School will apply the following procedure: the School will allow either parent to enroll his or her child in the School if (a) the School is not aware of any ongoing court proceedings regarding custody; or (b) the School is aware of ongoing court proceedings regarding custody but has been notified that there is not yet a court order or signed legal document governing custody. The purpose of this enrollment procedure is to help ensure that students have an opportunity to receive an education in school while their parents are trying to resolve their custody disputes.

Withdrawal Without a Legal Document

The School recognizes that parents often separate when going through a custody dispute and that one parent sometimes wishes to withdraw his or her child from school and transfer the child to another school as a result of the separation. The School further recognizes that a parent may request to withdraw his or her child prior to securing a court order or signed legal document governing custody of the child. The School will not grant a parent's withdraw request under such circumstances unless the other parent consents to the withdrawal. The purpose of this withdrawal procedure is to help maintain continuity for students in their education with minimal disruption.

The School may, in its discretion, make an exception to this withdrawal procedure if it deems making an exception to be in the best interest of a child.

Family Handbook

These procedures supplement the withdrawal procedures in the School's Family Handbook.

