

## CUSTODY FAQ's

- 1) **A child who is not my biological child is coming to live with me. His / her custodial parent resides elsewhere. Can I enroll this child in Worthington Schools?**

*No. You would need to obtain custody / guardianship of the child and, as required by Ohio law, proof of custody must be provided at the time of enrollment. Please contact Franklin County Clerk of Courts at 614.525.4410 for further details.*

- 2) **I have a motion for custody. Can I enroll my child with a court ordered motion?**

*If the motion is court filed and stamped with a future hearing date, typically within 60 days, yes, we can accept this motion until the final court documents are completed.*

- 3) **I am the biological father of a child and wish to enroll him / her in school. The biological mother and I were never married. What do I need to do?**

*Proof of custody must be provided at the time of enrollment in order to enroll your child(ren). In the State of Ohio, if parents were never married, the mother is automatically the sole custodial parent unless the father goes to court and obtains an order of custody [O.R.C. 3109.04.3]. Please contact Franklin County Clerk of Courts at 614.525.4410 for further details.*

- 4) **I have a court order / judgment entry giving me custody of a child. However, it is not signed by a judge. Is this acceptable?**

*No. The court order must be court filed and stamped as well as signed by a judge or magistrate in order for the court order to be considered valid.*

- 5) **A relative / friend provided me a notarized letter giving me custody of his/her child. Is that acceptable as proof of custody?**

*No. We cannot accept notarized statements. You must have a court filed and stamped court document. Please contact Franklin County Clerk of Courts at 614.525.4410 for further details (refer to question #1).*

- 6) **My former spouse and I have shared parenting. We live in two different school districts. Can my child attend either district?**

*The child must attend school in the district of the "residential parent for school placement purposes." This is standard wording in a divorce / separation agreement and the divorce / separation agreement that was established between you and your former spouse determines school district placement / assignment for your child.*

- 7) **I am divorced and the children live with me. I am the sole custodial parent. I do not want the non-custodial parent to have access to their records. Is this acceptable?**

*No. According to Ohio law, a non-custodial parent has the same rights as a custodial parent. Therefore, the non-custodial parent has a right to access student records. The only exception to this is if you have a protection order or restraining order which would not allow access by the other parent. If you have such an order and wish for us to honor your request, the school MUST have a copy of the order. Otherwise, we cannot deny the non-custodial parent rights to student records.*