



Saint Agatha Catholic School

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Parental Custody Arrangements

St. Agatha School is a faith-based community committed to the spiritual, academic, and emotional well-being of each of our students. We believe that children flourish when the adults in their lives act with charity, discretion, and peace. Because parental disputes can be disruptive and harmful to children—especially when they occur on campus—this policy exists to keep the school focused on its mission and to prevent custody or timesharing disagreements from occurring at school. This policy applies to the parents and the legal guardians of students.

I. School Policy on Parental Timesharing Arrangements

The school will not take sides in parental timesharing arrangements. Consequently, it will not undertake responsibility for interpreting, mediating, negotiating, or enforcing parental timesharing schedules or custody arrangements. However, in limited cases, the school may apply explicit court orders that prohibit a parent's contact with a child including no-contact and restraining orders. At its discretion, the school may take steps to prevent adult conflict from occurring in view of students or disrupting learning, worship, or school operations.

II. Parent Responsibility for Timesharing and Custody Matters

Parents have a serious responsibility to their children—and to the school community—to manage custody and timesharing arrangements without involving school faculty or staff. Accordingly:

- Parents are solely responsible for policing and enforcing their own timesharing arrangements, exchanges, and parenting-plan requirements.
- Parents must not ask, pressure, or expect teachers, administrators, coaches, or staff to:
 - “Take sides,” “verify compliance,” or determine which parent is “supposed” to have the child on a given day;
 - Refuse a child’s release to a parent based on an alleged schedule violation;
 - Serve as intermediaries, messengers, or “record-keepers” for family court matters; or
 - Facilitate confrontations, negotiations, or discussions about custody on campus, at school events, or through school communication channels.
- Parents are required to resolve disputes privately (and, when needed, through their legal counsel, mediation, or the court) and not through school personnel.

III. School Access and Release to Parents

To protect student safety while remaining neutral in family disputes, the school will generally follow these standards:

1. **Equal parental access absent restriction.** Unless the school has on file a current, valid court order that restricts a parent's contact with the student (e.g., an injunction for protection, no-contact order, or other court-ordered restriction), the school will generally treat each legal parent as having access to the student, school records, and school activities consistent with applicable law and ordinary school procedures.
2. **Verification and safety procedures still apply.** All adults—including parents—must comply with campus security procedures (sign-in requirements, identification checks, visitor rules, and supervision expectations).
3. **Authorized pickup procedures.** For student safety, the school will release students to individuals permitted by school procedures (e.g., verified parent/guardian and/or individuals listed on the school's authorized pickup permissions), and consistent with any court order on file. The school's safety protocols are not an enforcement mechanism for timesharing; they are for student protection and orderly operations. Decisions about which individuals may be included on the school's authorized pickup list should be made by the parents. Disputes over such lists should be addressed by the parents (and their legal counsel and/or court order as necessary).
4. The school is not responsible for "holding" a child to resolve a dispute. If a parent appears for pickup and the school has no restraining/no-contact order or other court-ordered restriction on file, the school is not responsible for adjudicating competing claims about which parent's day it is.
5. High-conflict situations. If repeated conflict occurs on campus or at school events, the school may require additional boundaries (for example: separate conference schedules, separate event check-in instructions, communication limitations, or a school-developed interaction plan) as a condition of continued enrollment, so that school remains a place of peace for students.

IV. Court Orders, Injunctions, and Documentation

Parents must promptly provide the school with updated copies of any court order affecting: parental contact, pickup restrictions, supervised contact requirements, or communication limitations. If the school receives a valid restraining order/injunction/no-contact order restricting a parent's contact with the child or the other parent on campus, the school will follow it to the extent reasonably practicable and consistent with student safety and school operations. If an order is unclear, the school may ask the parents to obtain clarification. Until then, the school will follow its standard procedures and campus safety rules. In accordance with Florida law, the school will make student records and in-person conferences available to both parents unless a court order specifically revokes this right, in which case it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the court order to the school. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the school of the address(es) where student records should be sent.

V. Conduct Expectations and Campus Safety

St. Agatha School expects all parents to model respect and self-control consistent with the school's Roman Catholic faith and values. Parents may not argue, negotiate custody, or engage in hostile communications on campus, at drop-off/pickup, or at school events. Parents must not involve students in adult disputes or request that students carry messages or documents between

parents. In cases where a conflict arises at school, the school may separate parties, end a meeting/event participation, restrict access to campus for the remainder of the day, and/or require future communication through designated channels. If safety is threatened or a disturbance occurs, the school may contact law enforcement.

Compliance with this policy is an integral component of the school's overarching parental cooperation requirement in which parents and legal guardians are expected to comply with the school rules and policies, and to accept and support the authority of school officials.