

Yeshivas Mekor Chaim's Policy Concerning Parental Rights and Responsibilities

Yeshivas Mekor Chaim strives to serve as a partner with our school parents in guiding and educating our students. School policy provides that each parent is given equal access to all educators, administrators and school records. When the school needs to contact a child's parents, the presumption is that contact with either parent is sufficient and the school is under no obligation to contact both parents. At times, however, particular circumstances may dictate different practices. The school policy concerning such situations appears below.

1. Basic Policy

- **Illness** – The school will utilize the contact information provided by the parents and will call the numbers listed until a responsible adult is reached who can address the situation.
- **School Mailings** – The school will provide a copy of all mailed written correspondence to the parents. If the parents live apart or there is a non-traditional custodial situation (e.g. a child is being raised by a grandparent), the family must notify the school and the school will provide a copy to each address as requested.
- **Dismissal from School**- The school will allow any individual listed on the student contact or carpool form to pick a child up from school at the end of the school day. For dismissal at any other time (e.g. appointment), the school will allow either parent to pick up a child. Before releasing a child to any other adult, the school will require a written note or oral permission from the parents.
- **Child's Name for Registration Purposes**- The school will use the name provided by the parents on the initial enrollment forms. Should the parents wish to have a child adopt a different name, the parents must put such a request in writing and the school will consider any such request.
- **Consents and Waivers** – The school will accept the consent or waiver of either parent whenever such a consent or waiver is required.
- **Disruption** – The school retains the right to prohibit any parent, regardless of Court/Bais Din orders or custodial status, access to school grounds or school activities if he or she disrupts the educational process or if his or her presence is to be detrimental to the morals, health, safety, academic learning or discipline of the students, in the sole discretion of the school.
- **Conferences** – Both parents are welcome and encouraged to participate in school conferences. If the parents are separated or divorced, the school expects the custodial parent to provide scheduling information to the non-custodial parent unless the parents provide written instructions to the contrary.

2. Divorce/ Separation or Other Extenuating Circumstances

- **Presumption of Joint Custody** - Parents are presumed to have joint custody unless the parents provide the school with a written agreement signed by both parents or Court/Bais Din order denying or limiting the custody of one parent.
- **Determination of Primary Contact/Custodial for Daily Contact** – Each parent is required to provide Yeshivas Mekor Chaim with a copy of the final version of their divorce agreement from court and/ or Bais Din and to provide updated copies if there is a change to the agreement.

In the absence of a written agreement signed by both parents or Court/Bais Din order indicating otherwise, the parent with whom a child resides will be deemed to have primary custody for purposes of daily contact.

- Early pick-up of a child - If parents have provided the school with a court mandated custodial policy, the school will follow the guidelines outlined in the document. If no such documents have been provided, in the event that a child needs to be picked up early, the school will contact the parents as listed on the child's information form. If the first parent contacted cannot be reached within a reasonable time, the other parent will be contacted unless the parents provide other names or numbers to contact.
- School Mailings - The school will provide copies of all written correspondence to each parent unless provided with a written agreement signed by both parents or a Court/Bais Din order directing otherwise.
- Stepparents - A stepparent will be accorded the rights of a parent unless there is a signed Court/Bais Din order indicating otherwise.
- Restricting Access to School Grounds/Events – Under any circumstances, where a parent's action, or proposed actions, conflicts with the school's ability to act in the child's best interests, the school will try to resolve the problem with that parent alone but reserves the right to contact the other parent if the school deems it to be prudent.
- Educational Decisions – The custodial parent shall make all decisions regarding all education matters unless the school is provided with a Court/Bais Din Order or written agreement signed by both parents requiring it to seek the consent of both parents.
- Visitation – If there are circumstances that require the school to deny access by a parent to a child, the school must be provided with a Court/Bais Din Order. In the absence of such an Order, the school will allow each parent equal access to a child during the school day unless the school, in its sole discretion, deems it harmful to the child to do so.
- Presence of Lawyers at School Meetings – If a parent feels that it is necessary to bring a lawyer to a school meeting, the parent must provide the school with one week's advance notice. The school will notify all other attendees of the request, and in some cases, it may be necessary to reschedule the meeting to accommodate all parties.

Financial Obligations: It is the responsibility of each parent to provide Yeshivas Mekor Chaim with a copy of the final version of their divorce agreement from court and/or Bais Din and to provide updated copies if there is a change to the agreement so Yeshivas Mekor Chaim can follow the billing directives provided for in the divorce agreement. In the absence of a written agreement signed by both parents, or Court/Bais Din Order indicating otherwise, each parent is responsible for 50% of the assessed tuition and 50% of all school fees and assessments. Please refer to our tuition policy for details regarding report card and transcript release which will apply to each parent's financial responsibility to Yeshivas Mekor Chaim.

Policy is subject to modification in the sole discretion of Yeshivas Mekor Chaim.