

QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

From time to time, our school office comes to learn that parents are going through a divorce or separation or have had changes to their custodial arrangements. While we understand that this is a difficult process for all involved, we would like to remind parents of the following:

- If you are presently divorced or separated, please make sure the school has the most upto-date information and any court-ordered documents relating to custody or decisionmaking.
- If you are presently going through a divorce or separation process, please inform the principal.
- If circumstances around custody or decision-making arrangements, please update the principal.

It is important to remember that schools follow the court documents that are provided to us. Where no court documents exist, birth parents will be seen as the legal guardians, and communication will be shared with the legal guardians of the child. Confidentiality is maintained as we work with all parties involved.

If a parent has a new partner (girlfriend, boyfriend, or a common law partner), the new partner is not automatically given authority to make decisions regarding the child(ren). The courts must determine whether the new partner can have any decision-making authority. The BC Government has stated:

"All guardians with parental responsibility for a child must agree about contact between the child and <u>a person who is not a guardian</u>. A written agreement about parenting arrangements or contact with a child may be filed in the court registry. The court can treat and enforce the agreement the same way as a court order." (Source: <u>What do I need to know about making an agreement on parenting arrangements or contact? - Province of British Columbia (qov.bc.ca))</u>

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely, J. Sandberg Principal