



Department of
Education

School Decision Making in Family Disputes procedures

Effective date: 3 February 2026

Version: 1.0

These procedures must be read in conjunction with the School Decision Making in Family Disputes policy.

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These procedures must be read in conjunction with the School Decision Making in Family Disputes policy.

1. Policy supported

School Decision Making in Family Disputes policy

2. Scope

These procedures apply to all school staff.

3. Procedures

3.1 Procedure

3.1 School decisions should be informed by the Guidelines for School Decision Making in Family Disputes and by balancing the duties owed to students with recognition of the involvement and responsibilities of the student's parent or family member.

3.2 Procedure

Where the circumstances require action by the school, the school will be guided by considering and balancing:

- the best educational interests of the student;
- the safety and welfare of students on school premises or involved in a school activity; and
- maintaining the day-to-day operation and management of the school, and all persons on school premises.

Collectively, these are the school's 'paramount considerations'.

3.3 Procedure

Staff exercising their professional judgment in good faith and in accordance with the paramount considerations and the Guidelines will be supported by the Department with respect to any legal proceedings.

3.4 Procedure

The Guidelines for School Decision Making in Family Law Disputes should be used to inform decision-making for each of the listed family law related issues that arise:

- Enrolment information
- Release of care
- Parent spending time and communicating with student during school
- Parental involvement in school activities
- Provision of school documentation
- Family members and other persons
- Parenting plans and parenting orders
- Restraining orders
- Recovery and location orders
- Orders to produce
- Department of Communities orders
- Bail conditions and conditional release orders
- Involvement with court proceedings.

4. Related documents

Relevant legislation or authority

[School Education Act 1999](#)

[School Education Regulations 2000](#)

Related Department policies

[Alcohol and Other Drugs in the Workplace policy](#)

[Child Protection in Department of Education Sites policy](#)

[School Decision Making in Family Disputes Policy](#)

[Work Health and Safety policy](#)

Other documents

[Guidelines for School Decision Making in Family Disputes](#)

5. Contact information

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6. History of changes

Effective date	3 February 2026
Last update date Procedure version no.	1.0
Notes	The new School Decision Making in Family Disputes policy and procedures were endorsed by Director General on 19/01/2026 D25/1067371

7. More information

Supporting content

Policy

[School Decision Making in Family Disputes policy](#)

Procedure review date

3 February 2029
