



## INTERVIEW BY SOCIAL WORKERS

### POLICY STATEMENT 336

Family Services Act

Category: Educational Programs and Related Services

RESPONSIBILITY: Principal

EFFECTIVE: Nov. 12, 1998

REFERENCE: Family Services Act

REVISED: September 1, 2004  
November 29, 2013

#### **Statement:**

The Superintendency recognizes that social workers employed by the Department of Social Development must investigate reports of child abuse or neglect and will be granted access to children attending the schools of Anglophone East School District for interview purposes in accordance with Section 31(2) of the Family Services Act.

- 336.1 Upon entering the school, social workers must present appropriate identification to the Principal or designate and state whom they wish to interview. The Principal shall ask the social worker the following questions: "Is there any reason this interview cannot take place in the home?" If the answer is "yes", then 609.2 applies. If the answer is "no", then the Principal shall inform the social worker that "the school prefers the interview to take place in the home."
- 336.2 The social worker shall be able to access the student as would any parent/guardian. The school is not required to contact the student's parents/guardians and permission to interview the student is not required in accordance with Section 31(2) of the Family Services Act.
- 336.3 The Principal shall ensure that accommodation is made for the social worker to interview the student in a private area.
- 336.4 The social worker may request the child's teacher, a school administrator, or a friend of the child to be present during the interview if the child feels more comfortable with someone else present. The Principal shall ensure that anyone present during this interview is aware that they may be subpoenaed to provide evidence should the case go to court.
- 336.5 If it is necessary for the child to leave the school to be interviewed at the offices of the Minister of Health and Wellness, the social worker shall provide the Principal or designate, written notification which states that the Child Protection Worker will be removing the child to enable the Minister of Health and Wellness to conduct an investigation. It is the responsibility of the social worker to advise the parents/guardians of such action. The parent/guardian is to be advised, at the discretion of the social worker, depending on the case and the content of the referral.