



Family Law Policy

FLP2020-1.3

Purpose:	The purpose of this policy is to outline The Spot Academy response to matters in relation to family law issues.	
Scope:	The policy covers parents/carers, students and staff and describes how the Academy responds to requests by parents/carers who have no contractual arrangements with the Academy for information about, and access to, their children).	
Status:	Approved	Supersedes: N/A
Authorised by:	CEO	Approval Date: 7 th April 2020
References:	Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) Australian Education Regulation 2013(Cth) Child Protection Policy Enrolment Policy Privacy Policy	
Reviewed:	2 Years	Next Review: 7 th April 2022
Responsibility:	Head of Campus	Point of Contact: CEO/Head of Campus

Definitions

Parental Responsibility: In relation to a child, means all the duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which, by law, parents have in relation to children. Each of the parents of a child who is not eighteen (18) has parental responsibility for the child. This is not affected, for example, by the parents becoming separated or by either or both of them marrying or re-marrying. [*Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) s61(B); s61(C)(1) and (2)*]

Parents: Usually a child's parents are the father whose sperm fertilises the mother's ovum and the mother who conceived and gave birth to the child. These are called the "natural parents". Other circumstances of parenthood include:

- Adoptive parents
- Step-parents may have a duty to maintain a child but only under a court order [Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) s66M]
- Where there has been artificial insemination by a donor
- Where an ovum provided by one woman is fertilised *in vitro* and inserted in another woman
- Where a woman acts as a surrogate and agrees to bear a child for another woman

Persons responsible for students: The natural parents of a student are legally responsible for the student until the student turns 18 unless a parenting order has been made by the Court removing responsibility from one or both of the natural parents.

Policy

Rationale

1. Schools have contractual obligations to the person who enrolls the child and who is responsible for payment of the fees.
2. Schools have a duty in tort to take reasonable care for the safety of the child.

3. Schools have no way of knowing as a fact who the natural parents of a child are
4. Schools should not need to determine the current state of orders in a Family Court matter.
5. The Family Court seldom makes an order which a Academy is directed to obey.

Policy

Except in exceptional circumstance outlined below, the Academy does not become involved in Family Court matters.

It is the policy of The Spot Academy to provide information about a child and access to the child to those people whom the Academy believes are the natural parents of the child and to others as authorised by the person who enrolls the child.

If the enrolling party directs some other course, the directed course will be followed by the Academy, under the Academy's contractual obligations to the enrolling party. If there is a disagreement between the enrolling party and others who believe they have the right of access to information about or access to the child, it is the responsibility of those parties to reach agreement independently from the Academy, either through consultation or court action. The Academy will not become involved as the arbiter in disputes of this kind.

Exceptional Circumstances

The policy is subject to 3 qualifications:

- (i) where a court orders otherwise and the order binds the Academy
- (ii) where it is reasonably foreseeable that the safety of the child could be jeopardised
- (iii) where the child objects and the Academy believes, it is in the best interests of the child to heed the objection.