



Marengo-Union Elementary Consolidated School District 165

*Marengo Community Middle School
Locust School*

Re: Child Custody

Parent Notification:

By Illinois State law, if parents are legally separated or divorced, (***this also includes parents that have never been married***) each parent has equal rights to the custody of the child/children **UNLESS** *a parent has a current court order that indicates which parent has custody of the child/children.*

The school must have a current copy of the court order on file; otherwise, either parent may check the child out of school with proper identification.

- **Sole/Joint Custody:**

When one parent is not suitable to be responsible for the decisions affecting the child or the parents are unable to cooperate effectively in order to engage in joint custody, sole custody will be awarded to one parent by the court. *Sole custody designates one of the parents as having the authority to decide the major issues in a child's life.*

Sole custody does not mean that the other parent is not allowed visitation with the child and joint custody does not mean equal parenting time. Physical parenting time is determined according to a visitation schedule agreed upon by the parties, or ordered by the court. A visitation schedule may provide for equal or near-equal parenting time, or it may provide that one parent has the child a greater amount of time than the other parent.

- *Additionally, both parents are entitled to medical, dental, child care, and school records, whether custody is sole or joint.*
 - *Unless stated in the court papers that one parent should NOT receive this information.*

I have read the above statement of the law and understand that without a current court order both parents have rights to the child/children.

Child/ren name(s) _____

Parent Signature

Date