

Parents of Victims Can Become Active in Resolving Bullying Situations

Get specific information from your child. The more specific the information you can get, the better the school will be able to help end the situation. Ask your child the following questions, and record the answers in writing carefully:

Where did this happen? (Playground?
Lunch room? Classroom?)

When did this happen? (Morning? During
recess? After school?)

Is this the first time this happened?

What happened right before this happened? What
were you doing? What was Joey doing?

Walk me through what happened. You said, "Hi."
What did Joey say or do next? What did you say /do?

Who else was there? (Teacher? Other adult?
Other kids?) What did they do?

Did you tell anybody? If yes, what did they do? If no,
why didn't you tell an adult?

**Take this information, in written form, to your
school.** Ask them to read it and make an
appointment to sit down afterwards.

During that appointment, ask the school: Is there
any other information that I can get from my child
to help you address this situation?

Will you be following school policy in addressing
this situation?

What specific actions can you tell me you will be
taking? (Note that you understand the legal
limitations school officials are under.)

Have you spoken with my child's teacher/
playground monitor/lunch room attendants/
etc.? When will we touch base next?



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“That’s Confidential” A Guide To School Confidentiality for Parents



**Elizabeth
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When your child has been a victim of bullying....

it's natural to want to know exactly what will happen to the child who bullied him or her. If you ask an educator in the United States, "What punishment is that child going to receive?" and hear... "**That's confidential,**" You may conclude that the educator or administrator is avoiding your question or protecting the bully. In fact, they are simply obeying the law! Educators in the United States must obey the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). This Act strongly affects schools and disciplinary procedures against minor students. One effect is this Act is to **make school records (including discipline) a private matter**. That means a school is *prohibited* from sharing any information in a student's record - including disciplinary information — to third parties without parental consent.

What A School Official CANNOT tell you

Specific disciplinary procedures instituted against any child except your own

Any actions the school is taking that specifically affect a child other than your own (e.g., moving another child to a different classroom)

The content of any communications with another child's parents or guardians

Any contract or agreement with a child who is not your own, or with the parents of that child

The names or identification of other children involved in previous incident(s) in which your child had some involvement, for which there is a record

Measures other parents are taking to help their child (e.g., parents putting another child in therapy)

Previous or past behaviors or behavior problems of any child other than your own child

What a School Official CAN tell you

Specific disciplinary procedures that are defined in school policy or administrative procedures, and whether or not they intend to follow that policy in this case

Any actions the school is taking that affect your child (e.g., moving your child to another classroom)

The fact that they have been in communication with the parents or guardians of other children

Any actions the school is taking that affect the children generally but which may impact the incident(s) in question (e.g., placing an adult monitor in a spot which has been identified as one where bullying occurs)

Previous incident(s) in which your child had some involvement, without naming other children

Measures you might use to help your child (e.g., practicing your child's response to a bully; "checking in" daily with your child's teacher; getting important information from your child)

Any reports or referrals made to law enforcement regarding the incident(s) in question

Need more information? Visit <http://www.elizabethenglander.com>