

There are two sides to every family law story...



Access to Records

Mike and Karen have joint legal custody of their two children. Karen completed the updated school contact forms and listed her new husband as emergency contact instead of Mike. Mike is not receiving notices from the school and is blaming Karen.

Now what?

Andi's advice to Mom:

While Mike must be listed as the father to the children on all of the school paperwork, it is certainly acceptable to list Stepfather as an emergency contact (as well as others) who may be available to pick up the children from school. It is not Karen's responsibility to give all of the notices to Mike but if Karen knows that the school will only send one copy of information to parents, she should certainly share with him.



Andi Mengedoth



Andi Lawrence

Andi's advice to Dad:

Mike certainly has the right to be listed as emergency contact on the school forms. Most schools, however, require more than mom and dad as contacts. There is nothing inherently wrong with the stepfather being a contact, as long as Mike is listed as the father on the forms, and to the extent the emergency notifications are prioritized, Mike appears before the stepfather. Mike can, and should, contact the school himself to make sure that teachers and others know he would like to receive notices directly and to provide his own contact information.

Here's what...

There is a statute in Arizona that provides that each parent is entitled to access to school and medical records of the children. If this matter were brought to the Court's attention, the Court would remind each parent to make arrangements for their own receipt of information as neither is obligated to advise the other. Likewise, neither parent can take any action to impede the other parent's access to records. If the school will not accept the stepfather as a contact in addition to the father, the stepfather will need to be removed from the emergency contact roster. In any event, the parties will each need to confirm with the school that Mike is the father of the children, not the stepfather.

Andi and Andi always support resolution of family issues through open dialogue and amicable settlement.

If you have a family law question that you would like answered, email us at AndivsAndi@HallierLaw.com.



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