

## **CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND STUDENTS**

The role of the guidance counselor and teacher in a public school setting requires careful delineation of the conditions under which information received by professional staff is communicated to other responsible parties. School personnel are responsible for bridging communication between the home and the school. A guidance counselor and teacher in the public school setting, therefore, must be cognizant that they are acting as an agent of the parents/guardian and must be sensitive to interrelationship between student/parent/guardian and professional staff.

The guidelines that follow are to assist the professional staff in carrying out their responsibilities in a manner which is consistent with both the student's needs and institutional requirements of the public school:

1. A professional staff member does not have the right of privileged information.
2. A guidance counselor, in establishing a relationship with a student, should make the student aware that there is no guarantee of confidentiality of information at may be communicated during a counseling session.
3. Information received in confidence should be revealed if, in the judgment of the professional staff member, there is a clear and imminent danger to the individual or to society, or even the potential for such.
4. If information received in confidence is revealed, it should be given only to appropriate parties with whom this type of information should be shared.
5. When, in the judgment of the staff member there is clear danger to the individual, or to society or the potential for such, communication with the home must be established regardless of the fact that the information was given in confidence.
6. A staff person would also call upon other personnel resources in the school in dealing with these types of sensitive issues.