

**From:** Craig, Taylor  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 4:06 PM  
**To:** Peters, Hal  
**Subject:** Shalonda McCready Response  
**Importance:** High

Taylor Craig  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**From:** Davis, Wanda A [<mailto:WDavis@ed.sc.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 05, 2015 4:05 PM  
**To:** 'shaelynn25@gmail.com'; Craig, Taylor  
**Subject:** access to public school student records  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mrs. McCready:

I am in receipt of your email that you sent to Governor Haley regarding your concerns with your ex-husband being allowed to obtain copies of your child's student records without your permission.

As Ombudsman for the SC Department of Education, your request was submitted to my attention for a direct response. Per current SC Code of Laws, Section 63-5-30 regarding the rights and duties of parents regarding minor children: "The mother and father are the joint natural guardians of their **minor children** and are equally charged with the welfare and education of their **minor children** and the care and management of the estates of their **minor children**; and the mother and father have equal power, rights, and duties, and neither parent has any right paramount to the right of the other concerning the custody of the minor or the control of the services or the earnings of the minor or any other matter affecting the minor. Each parent, whether the custodial or noncustodial parent of the child, has equal access and the same right to obtain all educational records and medical records of their **minor children** and the right to participate in their children's school activities unless prohibited by order of the court. Neither parent shall forcibly take a child from the guardianship of the parent legally entitled to custody of the child." Unless you have a family court order signed by a judge that prohibits the father of the child from having access to the child's student records and any information contained therein, the dad has rights to review or have copies of this information.

I hope the above has adequately answered your questions. If I can be of further assistance in this regard, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Wanda A. Davis,*  
Ombudsman  
SC Department of Education

State Superintendent's Office  
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