School Enrollment - When Child Goes to Live with Other Parent

The custodial parent usually enrolls the child in school in that parent's district. If the child goes to live with the other parent, the other parent can enroll the child in his or her district.

[Note: You can click on the question to go directly to the answer to that question, or you can scroll down the page to see all the questions and answers].

My ex-wife had custody of our children, but now the court gave me custody. I live in a different school district. What should I do to get my kids enrolled in school?

My ex-wife has legal custody of our children, but they are living with me and I want to enroll them in school in my district. What should I do?

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If you are now the custodial parent, you can enroll the kids in your school district. You should take the court custody papers with you to show the school that you now have legal custody of the children. You should call the school first to see what else you need to bring. (You may need birth certificates, health records, or other papers).

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Generally, the children should attend school in the district where the custodial parent lives. However, if the children are living with the non-custodial parent, the children should be able to go to school in the non-custodial parent's school district. There is a form you can use to ask the school to enroll your children. This form is called "Custodial Statement and Agreement: Divorce, Separation, or Abandonment." You should fill out the form and sign it, and if possible, your ex-spouse should sign the form too. Give the form to your school. This form should be enough to get your children enrolled in school in your district.

The form should be available at the school office. If it is not, contact the Indiana Department of Education at (317) 232-6676, or your local Indiana Legal Services office to get the form. You can also get the form and see instructions for using the form at school form.