

The Non-Consent Letter

You should never allow your child to be questioned at school without you. Not because you want to hide the truth, but because you want to protect and honor their voice.

It is not developmentally appropriate to expect a small child to give accurate information under pressure. A frightened kid, alone with an adult who holds power over them, will reach for whatever answer makes the questions stop. Memory bends. A leading question can harden into a confession. Being reached first is how you make sure you hear what happened from your child, in their own words, before anyone else has shaped it for them.

It also builds something that lasts. A child who learns they are allowed to wait, to say “I need my parent first,” grows into an adult who recognizes the situations where they can exercise their constitutional right to remain silent until they can speak to someone who can protect their interests. You are not teaching them to hide. You are teaching them their voice is worth protecting.

Fill in the blanks, email it to your principal, and get it on file before anything happens. Keep a dated copy.

Check with your district to see if they offer an official opt-out option. Use this as your backup.

Date: [Date]

To: [Principal's Name], [School Name]

Re: Written Notice of Non-Consent – [Child's Full Name]

Dear [Principal's Name],

I am the parent and legal guardian of [Child's Full Name], [Grade]. I do not consent to my child being questioned or asked to give any statement in a disciplinary investigation without you first contacting me at [Phone/Email] and obtaining my written permission. This is my notice that I am to be contacted first.

My child has been instructed not to answer until I have been reached and am able to be present or give consent. I acknowledge that this does not prevent the school from investigating or any consequences as a result of being found to be in violation of the student code of conduct.

If there are any questions, contact me at [Phone/Email].

[Your Name] / [Signature] / [Contact Info]

Not legal advice. This secures your right to be contacted first. It does not apply to law enforcement or an SRO's criminal investigation. If it's serious, get a lawyer.

Free right now. The full Back to School Basics kit (\$27) has the language for every other conversation this year is going to hand you. Grab this one while it's free.