



PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

To the extent allowed under the law, Thomas Aquinas College aims to serve as an agent of the parents who send their children to the College. A federal privacy law, however, limits the ability of the College to disclose certain information to parents, unless the student is regarded as a dependent of the parents for tax purposes, or unless the student has expressly consented to such disclosures. (See Privacy of Student Education Records).

Accordingly, unless a student gives the College permission to release certain information, or unless a parent can show that the student is a dependent for income tax purposes, the College may be precluded from sharing certain information with parents or others who may believe that their relationship with the student entitles them to have that information.

The College therefore provides each student with a *Consent to Release Educational Records* form which would give the College permission to discuss with the individuals that the student has designated (presumably parents and guardians) such matters that would otherwise be protected by this privacy law-matters such as a student's grades, financial obligations, disciplinary actions, or standing with the College.

If, for some reason, a student refuses to designate a parent or guardian in this Consent form, the College may choose to discuss certain educational records with a parent, but only if the parent can present evidence that the student was declared a dependent on the parent's most recent Federal Income Tax form. A copy of the cover and signature page of the tax form will be sufficient to establish this dependency.

Once, therefore, the student's consent is obtained or the student's dependency is established, the College may then discuss with parents their child's academic or disciplinary status, or any other matter of concern to the student's parents. For further information, please consult the College's policy on the privacy of student educational records, a copy of which may be obtained from the Registrar.