

## **Enrolling Children in School**

School enrollment can be a tricky time. We asked Amy Woolard of JustChildren, Legal Aid Justice Center in Richmond, VA, for some important information which could help you in securing permission to enroll children of relatives in your public schools.

The Office of the Attorney General for Virginia has issued to legal opinions on this matter. In the [1987 opinion](#), the Attorney General's office provided the legal basis for allowing children to attend school where they are residing so long as the residence is not solely for the purpose of the child attending a different public school. In addition, this opinion was upheld in a [2007 opinion](#) from the Attorney General's office, although this opinion was in response to a custody order and school enrollment.

Albermarle County has developed a system for handling situations in which children are residing with someone other than the birth parent and there has not been a custody order. This [form](#) requires families to provide a sworn statement that the child is living in the school district and the living situation is not solely for the purpose of attending the specific school where enrollment is being requested. Another [form](#) requires the custodial parent to provide authorization for the adults caring for the child to have power of attorney for educational purposes.

We appreciate the assistance of Amy Woolard and [JustChildren](#) in responding so thoroughly to our request for information about mechanisms for ensuring children are receiving free and appropriate public education!