

“Do Nothing till You Hear from Me”: Advising Students with Helicopter Parents

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- "As a child gets older, it is a real problem for a parent to work against their child's independent thought and action, and it is happening more often," said Ron Goldblatt, executive director of the Association of Independent Maryland Schools.
- washingtonpost.com

Check it out....

- Helicopter Parents Beyond College?
- Cell Phones – “The World’s Longest Umbilical Cord.”
- Protecting their investment.
- Black Hawks.

Mama said ...

- You are an adult; you are responsible for your own education.
- You need this degree more than I do; I already have one.
- Go to campus and take care of this problem.
- Have you seen your advisor lately?
- Your textbooks cost WHAT?

Tell us your story...

- The parent who should be doing my job.
- The parent who does not let their son or daughter talk to me.
- What kinds of things have happened to you?

The Challenges

- Parents who request schedule changes or other significant actions.
- Parents who continually request grades/schedules/information.
- Parents who complain/share sensitive family information.
- Parents who cause advisors to feel inadequate.

Common Questions

- Registration and change of major.
- Financial aid and cost of attendance.
- Housing and meal plans.
- General education requirements.
- Placement/ACT scores
- Textbooks \$\$\$

You are...

- Guide towards academic success.
- Help student understand responsibilities for their success.
- Referral to resources.
- Adjustment and information.
- Course selection.

Sensitive Information

- FERPA and protected information.
- It may be illegal to give out certain information.
- Check with the Records office if unsure.
- Student consent is usually necessary before an educational record can be released to a parent.

Institutions can share when...

- Student is a dependent.
- Health and safety emergencies.
- Alcohol and drug violations.
- Crimes of violence.

What do you do?

- Acknowledge the problem/question.
- Determine if you can give info to parents.
- Encourage parents to have student call in the future.
- Refer to appropriate office/department.
- Explain appropriate procedures/policies.
- Give parents information.

The best thing to say...

- Tell parents that the easiest way to get information from their son or daughter may be to ask them directly.
- Many campus officials say this is their #1 advice for parents.
- These same officials say that the parents report back to them that it works.

I haven't started
hovering yet...



but there is still time.