

# F. E. R. P. A.

F.E.R.P.A. stands for the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act; it is federal law enforced by the Department of Education which requires institutions of higher learning to do certain things and forbids other things. Non-compliance with F.E.R.P.A. jeopardizes a college's financial aid funding and exposes the institution and the individual to liability if the student whose rights are violated sues. Allegany College of Maryland has a F.E.R.P.A. policy (see the Student Handbook); we fully comply with federal law.

*Generally, a student must sign a release\*\*before information can be shared – even with a parent.*

**Exception:** information *may* be shared among College officials.

**Exception:** information *may* be released in an emergency.

**Exception:** information *may* be released to law enforcement.

**Exception:** information *may* be released to a parent who claims the student on his/her income taxes

**Exception:** directory information may be shared with any person

Directory information includes student name, address, whether the student is or is not registered, full time/part time status, and field of study.

Note: The College is never required to share student information with any third party – even with a release signed by the student. There are often good reasons for not releasing information such as the student's safety, a pending investigation, the inclusion of other students' information, and student development goals (eg., independence, responsibility). Read the entire policy and definitions for more information.

\*A standard release form may be obtained in the  
Office of Student & Legal Affairs.

It is the student's decision whether to sign the release, and it must be signed in front of a College official or a notary. Students have the right to see their own records.

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