

Registrar's Office

Dear Student:

We want to take this opportunity to give you a brief summary of your rights under the *Family Educational rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), the federal law that governs release and access to student education records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review your education record within a reasonable time after the College receives a request for access. If you want to review your record, contact the Office of the Registrar to make appropriate arrangements.
2. The right to request an amendment of your education record if you believe it is inaccurate or misleading. If you feel there is an error in your record, you should submit a statement to the Registrar clearly identifying the part of the record you want changed and why you believe it is inaccurate or misleading. The Registrar will notify you of their decision and advise you regarding appropriate steps if you do not agree with the decision.
3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in your education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with "legitimate educational interests." A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official has "need to know" information from your education record in order to fulfill his or her official responsibilities. Examples of people who may have access, depending on their official duties, and only within the context of those duties, include: college faculty and staff, agents of the institution, students employed by the institution or who serve on official institutional committees, and representatives of agencies under contract with the College.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the College to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

Release of student record information is generally not done at St. Thomas Aquinas College without the expressed, written consent of the student. There are, however, some exceptions:

For example, directory information includes the following, and may be released without the student's consent: name, local address, home address, email address, local telephone number, home telephone number, individually identifiable photograph, college of enrollment, status (including current enrollment, dates of attendance, full-time/part-time, withdrawn), honors received (*e.g.*, Dean's List recognition), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams. Please note that you have the right to withhold the release of directory information. To do so, you must complete a "Request for Non-disclosure of Directory Information" form, which is

available from the Office of the Registrar. Please note two important details regarding placing a “No Release” on your record:

1. The College receives many inquiries for directory information from a variety of sources outside the institution, including friends, parents, relatives, prospective employers, the news media and honor societies. Having a “No Release” on your record will preclude release of such information, even to those people.
2. A “No Release” applies to all elements of directory information on your record. St. Thomas Aquinas College, does not apply a “No Release” differentially to the various directory information data elements.

A copy of the *Act*, more details about your rights, and any College policies related to the *Act* are available from the Office of the Registrar, at www.stac.edu

Questions concerning FERPA should be referred to the Office of the Registrar. The office is currently under the direction of Ms. Eileen Murphy, Registrar.