



Addressing truancy and excessive absenteeism needs to be viewed as a **problem to be solved**, not a behavior to be punished

## Brown County Truancy Team

- Andy Braulick  
Truancy/Probation Officer  
(507) 276-7925  
[Andy.braulick@co.brown.mn.us](mailto:Andy.braulick@co.brown.mn.us)
- Doug Hughes  
Pre-truancy Officer  
(507) 766-6240  
[Doug.hughes@co.brown.mn.us](mailto:Doug.hughes@co.brown.mn.us)
- Randy Baker  
Assistant Probation Director  
(507) 233-6624  
[Randy.baker@co.brown.mn.us](mailto:Randy.baker@co.brown.mn.us)



# Brown County Truancy Programs



**Brown County**  
**MINNESOTA**  
**PROBATION**

## School Attendance Matters:

Under Minnesota truancy laws, all children between the ages of 7 and 17 are required to regularly attend school.

Regular school attendance is essential to education as it effectively prepares a child for adulthood. Truancy and excessive absenteeism will only hinder academic achievement and youth development, and likely lead to personal and societal consequences including:

- Lower Grades
- Dropping out of School
- Poor Physical and Mental Health
- Employment Issues
- Social Incompetence
- Criminal Behavior / Incarceration
- Drug and Alcohol Abuse
- Early Sexual Activity

## Definitions:

**Truancy:** Absent without a valid excuse by a parent/guardian or leaves school or class without permission

**Continuing Truant:** Three unexcused absences on three or more days

**Habitual Truant:** One or more absences on seven or more days

**Excused Absences:** Valid reason to be absent, e.g., illness, injury, family emergency, death of family member, doctor or dental appointment, and religious holiday

**Unexcused Absences:** Invalid reason to be absent, e.g., refusing to go to school, working, vacation/travel, babysitting, oversleeping, and missing the bus

## Early Intervention:

### Pre-Truancy Diversion Program

When a child has **three or more** unexcused absences, a pre-truancy referral is sent to the Brown County Probation Department's truancy team. An attendance intervention meeting is scheduled with the family and truancy team to discuss the potential legal, educational, and social consequences of truancy. Barriers to attendance are identified and goals to overcome the barriers are set.

Participation in the pre-truancy diversion program is voluntary, but strongly encouraged to deter further risk to the student's academic success. Throughout the program a continuum of incentive based, or sanction-based interventions may be utilized to promote progress and/or motivate the student until attendance barriers are effectively addressed.



## Court Intervention:

### Truancy Program

When a child has **seven or more** unexcused absences, the school or truancy officer may file a request to the county attorney's office to facilitate a CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) petition due to habitual truancy with the court. The child and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) will be required to attend a court hearing

If the child is found to be a CHIPS, the Judge has the authority to order a wide variety of services that focus on both the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) that may include:

- Periodic review hearings
- Probation supervision
- Loss of driving privileges
- Mental or chemical health evaluations
- Community work service
- Removal of electronic devices
- Out of home placement