

Brown County Truancy Program

What is Considered Truancy?

A child over the age of 11 without a lawful excuse from one or more class periods on seven (7) different school days.

How are Referrals Made for Pre-Truants ?

School officials may make a referral by email to the truancy officer after 3 days of unexcused absences. The Truancy Officer will schedule a meeting with the student and parents to discuss Truancy Diversion options.

How are Referrals handled for Truant Cases?

The supervising officer should be following the truancy case by the time it reaches truancy status. The officer will file a CHIPS petition in Court requesting attendance and any supervision conditions.



What Assistance Does the Program Provide?

This program will problem solve with the parent(s) and school officials attendance issues that could include transportation concerns, mental health referrals, mediation to resolve bullying concerns, etc. It may also provide incentives for attendance that can motivate some students to get back on track.

What Happens Once a Truant is on Probation?

It depends on what the court has ordered. It could include community service, curfew, drug testing, loss of DL or cell phone, mandatory attendance, mandatory summer school, meetings with the truancy officer, etc. As a student progresses, less time under supervision is needed and the file can close once the issues have been resolved.

WHY STOPPING TRUANCY MATTERS

- ⇒ 82 Percent of adults in prison are high school drop outs
- ⇒ Truants are more likely to have future employment issues
- ⇒ Students missing excessive school days are likely to have lower status occupations
- ⇒ Truants have a history of low earnings as adults and more likely to live in poverty
- ⇒ Students with attendance issues have adverse health conditions, become single parents
- ⇒ Education failure is linked to those who end up in a local jail and are 50% more likely to commit a crime

Information from Center for American Progress, The High Cost of Truancy, 2015



Brown County Probation
Department

Truancy Program

Pre-Truancy Program

Schools may refer any student with three or more unexcused absences to the Truancy Officer. The Truancy Officer will contact family members to determine if they need to get involved. The County Attorney will send an official letter letting the student/parent know of the consequences of continued non-attendance.

Referrals and intervention will begin when the officer believes this may be an ongoing concern. There will not be court involvement at this stage. Services are recommended but voluntary.

Once issues are resolved and attendance is no longer an issue, the case file will be closed.



Truancy Program

Once a student has met the criteria for truancy, the Truancy Officer will file a formal petition for court action called a "CHIPS" (child in need of protection or services) alleging truancy.

The child and his/her parents will be required to attend a court hearing. If the court finds the child is in fact a truant by State Law, the court can and will impose conditions for supervision. These conditions can include curfew, house arrest, drug testing, mental health therapy, assessments, mandatory school attendance, mandatory summer school, meetings with the Truancy Officer, etc.



A case plan will be developed with the student outlining specific actions to be completed. Students who fail to follow the case plan will be referred to the Brown County Juvenile Specialty Court. Specialty Court is composed of a Judge, Psychologist, School Officials, Social Workers, Probation Officers, Treatment Counselors, County Prosecutor. This team will review the status and determine if the student should have additional conditions and/or need to appear monthly in front of the Judge with their parent for monthly updates.

Brown County Truancy Program

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