

THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF TRUANCY

If you are charged with violating the Pennsylvania School Code (24 P.S. 13-1327-1333) and your child is found to be truant, as his or her parent/guardian, you may be subject to:

- ◆ Fines up to **\$750.00** plus court costs
- ◆ Ordered to attend parenting classes
- ◆ Sentenced up to 3 days in jail
- ◆ Removal of the child from his or her home

In Pennsylvania, students age 13 and older may also face fines—A student's drivers license privileges may be revoked or suspended for a period of time

Parents/legal guardians are responsible for making their child attend school everyday

ABSENCES SHALL BE TREATED AS UNEXCUSED UNTIL THE SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES A WRITTEN EXCUSE EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE, WHICH MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING WITHIN THREE (3) DAYS OF THE ABSENCE. ONCE THE STUDENT IS ABSENT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ALLOWED NUMBER OF EXCUSED DAYS, A DOCTOR'S EXCUSE IS REQUIRED. IF A DOCTOR'S EXCUSE IS NOT SUBMITTED, THE ABSENCE WILL BE COUNTED AS UNEXCUSED.



SERVICES PROVIDED

- Truancy Elimination Program
- 24 Hour Crisis Hotline
- Crisis Counseling
- Individual & Group Counseling
- Therapy
- Medical Accompaniment
- Legal Accompaniment
- Victims Compensation
- Support Groups
- Transparenting (Child Custody Seminars)
- Parenting Workshops/Classes
- Prevention Education Program
- Professional Trainings



Crime Victims' Center

OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

6 Oliver Rd.

Oliver Square Plaza, Suite 108
Uniontown, PA 15401

HOTLINE: 724-437-3737

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CRIME VICTIMS' CENTER
OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Truancy Elimination Program

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS



24 HOUR HOTLINE:

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Office:

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What is the Truancy Elimination Program?

- ⇒ The Truancy Elimination Program (TEP) is designed to address truancy issues through prevention and intervention services. We work with schools, parents, students, and the court systems.
- ⇒ Students absent more than what is allowed by their school district are referred to us by the school and/or the court—If you feel there are issues keeping your child from going to school, you can also call us to join the program
- ⇒ Once a referral is received from the school, we will call you by telephone and/or send a letter to you
- ⇒ Once we talk to you, we will then gather necessary information that will be helpful in finding out why your child may not be going to school everyday
- ⇒ Sessions can be held in your home, in our office, or at the school for your convenience.
- ⇒ Our **ultimate** goal is to increase the child's attendance, and provide you with the tools for your child to get an education.



THE IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

In Pennsylvania, all children of compulsory school age (children between the ages of 8 and 17) are required to attend school.

However, once a child is enrolled in Kindergarten or a higher grade, even if the child is still under the age of 8, the child becomes “of compulsory school age” and must continue to attend school once registered.

- Going to school everyday is important for your child's education and future
- When children miss a lot of school, they can make bad grades, miss out on friendships, and being with others their own age
- Children who go to school everyday rarely get involved in drugs, commit crimes, or becoming pregnant
- If they miss a lot of school, they may not be hired for a job or get to go to college—Missing school shows they are not responsible
- Going to school regularly is the **LAW!**

Education is the key to success!

What is Considered “Truancy”?

□ Definition of “truancy.” The new law defines “truancy” as “**three (3)** or more school days of unexcused absence during the current school year by a child subject to [the] compulsory school attendance.”

□ Definition of “habitually truancy.” The new law defines “habitual truancy” as “**six (6)** or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year by a child subject to compulsory school attendance.”



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