

# ***DEFINITION OF TRUANCY***

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## **Required Attendance**

Children ages 8 to 17

Exception: Age 16, regularly employed when school is in session, holds an employment certificate

## **Definition**

Three or more days without a valid excuse

## **Notice**

Written notice of attendance violation

Not required to send further notice

Filing a truancy petition

Hearing scheduled

## **Possible Outcomes**

Parent -summary offense, \$300 fine + court costs, or parenting class, or community service

If doesn't comply, 5 days in jail

Parents may not be convicted of a summary offense if they took reasonable steps to get child to school (not clearly defined)

Child - \$300 fine, alternative ed, community service, suspension of driver's license for 90 days (1<sup>st</sup> offense) or 6 months for additional truancy convictions

Child (under age 16) - chance to apply for a driver's license is suspended for 90 days (1<sup>st</sup> offense) or 6 months for additional truancy convictions

Habitually truant children can be referred to Children & Youth and adjudicated as a dependent child

## **Truancy Increases Risk For:**

Dropping out of school

Drug abuse

Gang activity

Delinquency

Unemployment

Emotional problems

Incarceration

Poverty in adulthood