

Definition of Truancy

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**

Definition of Truancy

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 (1st offense) or 6 months for additional truancy convictions**

Definition of Truancy

Possible Outcomes (Continued)

- **Child (under age 16) - chance to apply for a driver's license is suspended for 90 days (1st 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**