

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SCHOOL-ATTENDANCE LAWS**

If a student continues to miss school, he or she will be required to attend a Truancy Diversion Team meeting with family, school personnel, community services, and local law enforcement. Failure to attend this meeting and/or failure to follow through with the Truancy Contract may result in a child-protection petition being filed in Juvenile Court.

### **CONTINUED TRUANCY MAY RESULT IN ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES:**

- School Detention
- Supervision by County Probation Officer or Social Worker
- Community-service or work-crew volunteer hours.
- Participation in individual or family counseling, completion of a psychological or chemical-health evaluation, or participation in group-education programs
- Parent could be ordered to attend school with student.
- Student could be fined up to \$100 or parent held liable for prosecution for student's truancy with a penalty of up to 90 days in county jail and/or up to a \$1,000 fine.
- Student's driver's-license suspension until age 18.
- Home detention (student cannot leave home without parent, except for work or school).
- Placement in shelter or correctional facility with parents responsible for costs according to ability to pay.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Koochiching County Attorney's Office, Community Services, Law Enforcement, School Districts, and Ninth Judicial District believe that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work while benefiting a student socially and establishing regular habits important to the future of a student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance and, if necessary, compulsory attendance. The goal of this policy is to outline the expectations of the Koochiching County Attorney's Office, Koochiching County Social Services, and the participating School Districts.

## **KOOCHICHING COUNTY CHILDREN'S JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

Ninth Judicial District -  
Koochiching County Courthouse  
715 Fourth Street  
International Falls, MN 56649

Koochiching County Attorney's Office  
715 Fourth Street  
International Falls, MN 56649

Koochiching County Community Services  
1000 Fifth Street  
International Falls, MN 56649

## **KOOCHICHING COUNTY CHILDREN'S JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

# **TRUANCY POLICY REVIEW**

## **Overview of the Koochiching County Truancy Policy and Early Intervention Program for Parents, Guardians, and Students**

*For additional information about the Koochiching County Truancy Policy, contact your local school district or Koochiching County Social Services at*

**218-283-7000**

## HOW THE TRUANCY PROCESS WORKS

The Koochiching County Truancy Policy is a program designed to prevent truancy and to intervene to improve school attendance. The school will notify Koochiching County Community Services and the County Attorney's Office when a student has **5 or more unexcused absences**. Upon receiving this notice, a Truancy Diversion Team will be assembled and the student and parent will be required to attend a Truancy Diversion Meeting. At the meeting, school staff and representatives from community social services and law enforcement will work with the student and parent to identify barriers to attendance and recommendations for overcoming these barriers. These recommendations will become part of a Truancy Contract that the student and parent will be asked to sign. At this meeting, team members will explain to the student and parent the legal requirements and consequences if the Truancy Contract is not followed.

## DEFINITION OF TRUANT

By law, a child is considered a "continuing truant" if he or she is under the age of 17 years and is absent from school without lawful excuse for three school days or for three or more class periods on three school days. Children age 17+ will be considered truant if they have not lawfully withdrawn from school with their parent's permission.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

A parent or guardian may seek an excused absence from the school for his or her child. A school has the right to accept or deny the request for an excused absence. Absences are calculated according to the individual district's attendance policy.

**FOR AN ABSENCE TO BE EXCUSED, A PARENT MUST, AT MINIMUM, REPORT THE STUDENT ABSENT.**

### ACCEPTABLE ABSENCES:

- Sickness (may be required to provide written verification from doctor or nurse)
- Death in Immediate Family
- Medical or Dental Appointment
- Court Appearances
- Religious Instruction or Holiday
- Physical or Family Emergency
- Official School Trip or Event
- Family Vacation w/ proper notice to school
- Driver's Education

### INVALID EXCUSES (EXAMPLES)

- Tanning Sessions or Hair Appointments
- Babysitting
- Working at Home
- Travel/Vacation without notice to school

## RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOL

- Provide curriculum and a schedule that meets student's educational needs.
- Maintain accurate attendance records and document communication with student and family.
- Refer student to County Attorney's Office when Truancy Contract is not being followed.
- Inform parents and student of legal requirement of attendance and possible consequences if there is failure to meet those requirements.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENT

- Send your child to school.
- Inform the school when your child may need to miss school for an acceptable reason.
- Attend Truancy Diversion Meetings with your child and follow the recommendations of the Truancy Team.
- Monitor your child's attendance.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENT

- Attend school—every day, every class, and be on time.
- Complete required school work and ask for assistance when needed.
- Attend a Truancy Diversion meeting and follow the recommendations of the Truancy Team.