



**OFFICE OF
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Dear Parents:

In 2007 the Wright County Attorney's Office participated in creating a truancy diversion program by collaborating with Wright County Schools, Social Services, Court Services, and the courts to assist families facing truancy issues. The goal of the truancy diversion program is to help families facilitate successful completion of their children's education. The program has been a success, reducing the amount of truancy cases filed with the Court in Wright County by 75% again this year.

If your child, has been identified by his or her school as a truant you will be asked to participate in the Wright County Truancy Program. This program is designed to present information to parents and children about the effects of truancy on a child's future, what can happen if the child remains truant and services that can be offered to help ensure that your child gets the education he or she deserves.

The Wright County Program is held at the Wright County Government Center at 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday from September to June, excluding holidays. If your son or daughter has been identified as a truant you will receive an invitation to meet with representatives of the County during one of these meetings.

In the State of Minnesota, all children should attend school until the age of 18 and **must** attend school until the age of 17. Minn. Stat. §120A.22, Subd. 8. **Continuing Truant**...means a child who is under 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for three days if the child is in elementary school or for three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high, or high school. Minn. Stat. §260A.02, Subd. 3. **Habitual Truant**...means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high, or high school, or the above or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school. Minn. Stat. §260C.007, Subd. 19.

It is important to understand that a CHIPS Truancy Petition may be filed before or after the meeting if your child continues to be absent from school without lawful excuse. If you have questions about your child's attendance, please contact your child's school.

Let us work together to reduce the truancy rate in Wright County. We owe it to our children. I ask for your help. I ask for your support. I thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Kelly
Wright County Attorney