



DeWitt County Juvenile Probation Department
310 Dunn Cuero, TX 77954
361-275-5162

**NOTICE OF TRUANCY PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
PROGRAM**

Parents:

DeWitt County Juvenile Probation Department implemented a county wide Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program in August 2017. Your school has elected to participate in the program for the 2024/2025 school year. Please consider this your notice: Compulsory Attendance Standards will be enforced. A condensed version of the law is listed at the end of this notice.

At 8 absences, your child **may be** referred to the Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program. At 10 absences, you **may be** referred to court for Parent Contributing to Non-Attendance. In addition, students who are tardy to class excessively can be referred at the discretion of the school. Once referred, a caseworker will contact you for an intake appointment. After the intake appointment, a caseworker may visit with you and/or your child multiple times to address the attendance issue. The meetings can range from once and done to weekly for the full school year. If your child's absences continue, or you fail to participate in the program, your case will be forwarded to court. As a parent, you can be charged with Parent Contributing to Non-Attendance, which is a misdemeanor and fineable offense with fine amounts ranging from \$100 to \$500. At that time, you and your child can be placed under court orders that require your child to attend school and require you to participate in a truancy prevention program. Failure to comply with the court order can result in you (the parent) receiving additional fines, a charge of contempt of court and/or up to 72 hours in jail. Your child may receive a charge of contempt of court and will be referred to the juvenile probation department for adjudication and disposition possibly to include official probation.

There are several steps you can take to avoid being referred to the Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program:

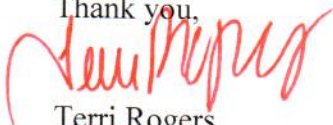
1. Make sure your child attends school regularly.
2. Make sure your child is at school on time and not tardy to classes.
3. Send a note each time your child is absent and make sure to get doctors notes when you have appointments. Turning these notes in on time in accordance with the school policy

may help avoid being referred to truancy or court. However, please know that after 10 absences the school does not have to excuse the absence based on a parent note. After 10 absences, the school has the right to require a doctor's note to excuse the absence.

4. When your child has an appointment, only take them out of class for part of the day. Do not keep them out a full day for appointments that can be accomplished in a few hours.
5. Communicate with the school when illness or family emergencies arise.
6. Even if you turn in a note and the school excuses the absence, at 10 absences you may be referred to court. Please speak with the school immediately if your child is experiencing a problem that may require them to miss school excessively. A plan may be put in place to help avoid court.

If you have any questions about the Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program or would like to speak to someone about this program, please feel free to call DeWitt County Juvenile Probation at 361-275-5162. Office hours are Monday- Thursday 8am to 6pm and Friday from 8am to 12pm.

Thank you,



Terri Rogers
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Persons Subject to Compulsory Attendance

Under §25.085,^[3] compulsory attendance applies to students who are at least six years old as of September 1 of the applicable school year. The law requires a student to attend public school until the student's 18th birthday, unless the student is exempt under §25.086, has graduated or completed a high school equivalency program.

Under §25.085(c), compulsory attendance also applies to students below the age for compulsory attendance during any period that the student is voluntarily enrolled in prekindergarten or kindergarten.

In addition, under §25.085(d), compulsory attendance applies to certain extended-year programs, tutorial classes, accelerated reading instruction programs, accelerated instruction programs, basic skills programs and summer programs for students subject to certain disciplinary removals.

Compulsory attendance is enforced through §25.093 and Chapter 65, Texas Family Code.^[4]

Acknowledgement Statement

I have read the Compulsory Attendance regulations and the Notice of Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program. I understand that failure to attend school as required by Compulsory Attendance will lead to a referral to the Truancy Prevention and Intervention Program with DeWitt County Juvenile Probation Department.

Student Name

Parent Signature

Date