

BRIAN A. LUTES

Wright County Attorney's Office



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Dear Parents:

In 2007, the Wright County Attorney's Office participated in creating the Truancy 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 Program is to help families facilitate successful completion of the children's education. The program has been a success, reducing the amount of truancy cases filed with the Court in Wright County by 75%, with the exception of the challenges presented by COVID-19 and distance learning.

If your student 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/guardians and students about the effects of truancy on the student's future, what can happen if the student remains truant and services that can be offered to help ensure that your student gets the education he or she deserves.

The Wright County Truancy Program is held at the Wright County Justice Center typically on Mondays at 4:45 p.m. during the months of October to May, excluding holidays. If your student 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. §124A.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periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high or high school and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school. *Minn. Stat. §260C.007, Subd. 19.*

It is important to understand that a CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection or Services) Truancy Petition may be filed after the meeting if your student continues to be absent from school without a lawful excuse. If you have any questions about your student's attendance, please contact your student'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,

Brian A. Lutes
Wright County Attorney