

## Are you wondering what's going to happen to you because you've missed so much school?

### Here's what the law says:

#### Truant

A truant is someone who has 4 unexcused absences from school in one month or 10 unexcused absences in one school year.

#### Habitual Truant

A habitual truant is someone who has a habit of being absent from school. A habitual truant is someone with 20 unexcused absences in one school year.



### What will happen if I am a truant?

Your school is required to have a meeting with your parent/guardian, or another person who is taking care of you, within 10 school days after you become a truant.

The reason for this meeting is to talk about why you haven't been coming to school and to help you solve the problems that keep you from coming to school.

### What if my parent/guardian doesn't go to the meeting at school?

If your parent/guardian doesn't go to the meeting, or if the school feels your parent/guardian is not helping you to come to school, they can refer your case to court through the "Families with Service Needs" law.



### What will happen next?

Your case will be assigned to a probation officer. The probation officer will refer you and your family to a program to help you. You may be referred to a place called a "Family Support Center" which is a center that has different kinds of programs for kids who are truant, who run away from home, or who have trouble following rules at school or in the community.

### Will my case ever get sent to a judge?

Maybe. If you and your family are unsuccessful with the services that the probation officer referred you to, s/he can send your case to a judge.

### What happens if my case gets sent to a judge?

You and your parent/guardian will be required to go to court. You will receive a summons in the mail telling you the time and place. There will be a hearing before a judge (probably more than one hearing).

You have a right to have a lawyer representing you at the hearing. You should ask your lawyer to explain the legal process to you.

## What can the judge do?

### Some of the things a judge can do are:

- Close your case and give you a warning
- Continue your case for up to 6 months with a referral to services like counseling or an after school program
- Order that you be supervised by a probation officer
- Order you to go to school and be supervised by school administrators
- Require DCF to become involved with you and your family

## Can I get arrested or locked up for truancy?

You cannot get arrested or placed in juvenile detention for truancy, but if you disobey the judge's orders, s/he can order you to be placed in a facility for up to 45 days.



## Need Help?

**Truancy is a serious problem.  
We want to help so you can stay in school.**

If you need information about truancy and your legal rights, call the CCA Teen Legal Clinic: (860)570-5327 or (203)223-8975.



The information in this brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice in an individual case. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-223-8975.

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missed a lot  
of school?

**Truancy.  
What does the law say?**