

A Truancy Message From Judge Teodosio

Dear Parent or Guardian:

There is nothing we can give our children that will benefit them more than a good education. As they face the future, an education prepares them for job opportunities and for life in general.

The law recognizes the importance of education, as well, and places a duty upon parents and guardians to assure their child is attending school on a regular basis. The law places the responsibility of enforcing truancy laws upon Juvenile Court.

If a child is absent for seven (7) consecutive days without a proper excuse, ten (10) days in a month or fifteen (15) days in a school year, the child is considered a chronic truant. A chronically truant child can be found delinquent and subject to Juvenile Court intervention.

The law also holds parents/guardians accountable for their child's school attendance and the Juvenile Court may order sanctions against the parents/guardians who fail to send their child to school. Sanctions may include:

- Mandatory Mediation
- Mandatory Parenting Classes
- Up to seventy (70) hours of community service
- A fine of up to \$500

If a child continues to be chronically truant, the parents/guardians could be charged with educational neglect or contempt of court. In some cases, jail time is a possibility.

It is your responsibility to make your child's school attendance a priority. This is a reminder of the importance of making sure your child attends school and the consequences that could occur if truancy continues.

The goal is to get your child back in a learning environment that will enhance his or her chances for future success.

Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio