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## Truancy Prevention Program Sequence

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- Truancy Prevention Referral
- 7 Absences: Letter #1
- Meeting at DSS Participation Agreement
- 14 Absences: Letter #2 (cc: District Attorney)
- 21 Absences: Letter #3 with Letter from District Attorney
- Meeting with District Attorney / School Attendance Agreement
- Mandated Parent Support Group
- Possible Prosecution

### Washington County DSS:

- Tammy DeLorme  
Commissioner
- Sheryl Allen  
Director of Children's Services
- Eileen Irwin  
Preventive Services Supervisor
- Michele Smith  
Preventive Services Senior Caseworker
- Robin Clary  
Truancy/ Ed. Neglect Caseworker

### Washington County District Attorney's Office

- Kevin Kortright, DA
- Jeffrey Murphy, Sr. Investigator
- Richard Painter, Sr. Investigator

### TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

A program that partners Washington County School Districts, the Washington County Department of Social Services and the Washington County District Attorney's Office to address and combat truancy. Documentation and communication are the key to our success.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM



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Building B, Municipal Center  
383 Broadway  
Fort Edward, NY 12828  
518/ 746-2300 ext. 3382  
518/ 746-2425

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<http://www.co.washington.ny.us>

Every school district is required to monitor student's attendance records and keep an open line of communication with their parents by Section 3205 of the New York State Education Law.

Section 3205 of the New York State Education Law states that:

“All children between the ages of six and sixteen years in proper physical and mental condition must receive full time instruction in public, private or parochial schools, or at home”

The Truancy Prevention Program has been established to identify parents/guardians of truant students who, for reasons within their control, grossly fail to show proper and prudent interest in their child's school attendance.

The program seeks to strengthen diligence and awareness to the point that these parents/guardians take a more active role in their children's education.

**Good attendance has a direct relationship with a successful school experience.**

## **The Process:**

Schools will file Truancy Prevention referrals through the Truancy Prevention Program

Once eligibility and suitability is determined; appropriate documentation will be required

Letters will be sent to the parents/guardians of truant students notifying them of seven (7) days missed and the parents/guardians will be encouraged to work with the Truancy Prevention Program and their local school district to improve their child's attendance.

The parents and the student will be scheduled for an intake assessment at Washington County Department of Social Services at which time, the parent and child will be asked to participate in the program and sign an attendance agreement.

The student's attendance will be monitored by Washington County Department of Social Services in conjunction with the school for compliance.

A second letter will be sent to parents/guardians when a child has fourteen (14) illegal absences from school; the second letter will be copied to the District Attorney's office. A report of Educational Neglect may or may not be made at this time and parents/guardians will again be encouraged to become more supportive of their child's attendance at school or to consider the second letter as the first step in intervention by the District Attorney's office.

If a third letter is necessary to notify the parents/guardians of twenty-one (21) illegal absences, that letter will be sent in conjunction with a letter from the District Attorney's office. The District Attorney's letter will explain what will need to be done in order to avoid criminal prosecution.

**Whenever possible, this program seeks to identify problems within families and help to solve them on a non-criminal basis. Parents/guardians of excessively truant children who choose not to respond to attempts at intervention may be prosecuted for endangering the welfare of a child (PL 260.10), a class A misdemeanor.**