

MAKING THE TRUANCY COURT EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU

- ◆ Maintain contact with the Visiting Teacher (VT). Your VT can assist you with issues at school and in securing resources for your child.
- ◆ Maintain contact with the Court. Truancy Court is structured to provide a setting where family supports and other resources can be identified and coordinated.
- ◆ The Truancy Case Manager is available to answer any questions you might have.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement/severe weather, please call the Court to confirm the status of your scheduled hearing. Due to case volume, the Court is unable to call defendants individually to notify them when cases have been continued/re-scheduled due to inclement/severe weather.

CONTACTING YOUR TRUANCY COURT

New Castle County

JP Court #20
500 North King Street
7th Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801
302-574-1500

Kent County

JP Court #7
480 Bank Lane
Dover, DE 19904
302-739-4554

Sussex County

JP Court #4
408 Stein Highway
Seaford, DE 19973
302-629-5433

State of Delaware



Justice of the Peace
Truancy Court

**THE CASE
REVIEW
PROCESS**

WHAT TO EXPECT

Welcome to Truancy Court. If you have entered a plea of or been found “guilty” of truancy (failure to send a child to school) or if you have entered a plea of or been found “responsible” of truancy (failure to attend school), you are now active in the “case review” portion of the Truancy Court intervention process.

HOW THE CASE REVIEW PROCESS WORKS

A “case review” is a special hearing that usually occurs every 4-6 weeks. It is unique to Truancy Court. It serves the following purposes:

- ◆ It provides a place where the student, Visiting Teacher, family, and Judge can figure out why a child is not attending school and develop a plan to address those obstacles.
- ◆ It is when the Judge will order special conditions for the student and/or family, such as counseling or tutoring.
- ◆ It is when the Judge reviews whether the student/family is following the Court’s orders.

While the Truancy Court experience is different for every family, there are some general things all families can expect during the process. They include the following:

- ◆ Over the course of multiple “case reviews,” the court will receive regular attendance reports/records from the Visiting Teacher representing your school district.
- ◆ Following your arraignment, neither the district nor the Court will accept any parent notes for absences.
- ◆ All absences must be documented on a professional’s letterhead in order to be considered “excused.”
- ◆ In addition to monitoring attendance, the Court will be working closely with you to identify and address any obstacles to regular attendance and academic achievement.
- ◆ Active participation from all parties (family, school district, Court, community agencies) is necessary to achieve student success.

- ◆ The information you provide the Court will be important to the development of an effective case plan. Some of the information discussed in Court will be of a sensitive nature.
- ◆ Please know the Court takes the confidentiality of your information seriously. Before moving forward with any referral, the court will obtain your written consent.
- ◆ You were asked to sign an inter-agency consent form at your first appearance in Court. This consent form allows the exchange of information with your school district and agencies within the Children’s Department.
- ◆ NOTE: The only exception to the need for written consent is in the event of a medical or mental health emergency. If the Court determines that a medical emergency exists, we will call 911. If a defendant is threatening to harm themselves or someone else, the Court will immediately contact crisis intervention services.