

CUTS

Court Unified Truancy Suppression

CUTS is a Diversion service that assists juveniles with first and second truancy complaints by providing services which educate and address the individual needs of the juvenile and family. By addressing truancy issues at the juvenile's school with their parent/guardian and a school representative involved, the juvenile is held responsible, the parent is empowered and communication barriers are removed to ensure that the juvenile is successful and receives an appropriate education.



In order to foster and promote long-term changes, consequences are specifically designed to educate and reintegrate the juvenile back into school with the support of school officials. Consequences can include but are not limited to community service, truancy educational classes, tutoring hours and counseling if necessary. The juvenile's driver's license may be suspended if the juvenile fails to appear to the CUTS hearing or fails to complete a consequence.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Approximately 1,000 youth are sent to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections a year, 91% either dropped out of school or had serious truancy issues.
- Missing 10 percent of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success. *
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.*
- 3/4^{ths} of students who are chronically absent in 6th grade will drop out of high school.*
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.*
- A student who is chronically absent in high school is 7.4X more likely to drop out.
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks. *
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job. *

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RESOURCES:

- Absences Add Up:
<http://absencesaddup.org/reasons-why-kids-miss-school>
- Family Involvement Center:
<http://www.familyinvolvementcenter.org/>
602-288-0155
- Families In Need of Services (FINS):
FINS Help Line: 602-506-5913

Maricopa County Juvenile Probation



CUTS Service Courts Unified Truancy Suppression

*Restorative
Not
Punitive*

AZ TRUANCY LAWS

- Children between the ages of 6-16 are required by AZ law to attend school.
- Children are allowed to miss 10% of school. That's a combination of excused and unexcused absences.
- Missing more than 10% is breaking the law.
- 5 unexcused absences is breaking the law

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Unexcused absences means parents unaware child is not in school (AKA: Ditching)
- 5 unexcused absences is breaking the law and could be referred to the court system.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Accompanied by a parent or designee
- Suspensions/Expulsions
- Religious/Spiritual Holidays
- Documented Chronic Illnesses
- Court Dates



RISK FACTORS

- Drop out of school
- Gang and Drug Involvement
- Serious Criminal Act
- Imprisonment
- Loss of Rights
- Loss of Career Opportunities
- Homelessness

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

- College Degree
- Technical/Trade School Certification
- Successful Career
- Financial Security
- Beautiful Home For Family
- Traveling With No Restrictions

REASONS BEHIND TRUANCY

Here are some reasons why kids might be missing school:

- My child isn't getting good grades.
- My child is being bullied at school.
- My child is often sick or doesn't feel well.
- My child helps care for another family member.
- Our family is struggling with mental or emotional health.
- Our family is having difficulties with housing or food. *

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CONSEQUENCES FOR YOUTH

- Citation(police complaint) for Truancy on youth's juvenile record
- CUTS hearing with a Probation Officer
- Possible consequences a PO can assign may include:
 - Community Service hours
 - Educational classes
 - After school tutoring
 - Writing assignments
 - Counseling

If consequences are not completed by the due date, the youth will get a suspension of their Driver License or their ability to obtain one.

CONSEQUENCES FOR PARENTS

If schools decide to refer parents to the courts, possible consequences could be:

- Criminal Offense (Misdemeanor 3) on their Record
- Up to 30 Days in Jail
- Up to \$1000 Fine
- Required Parenting Class

**"Truancy is a gateway
to Juvenile
Delinquency"**