

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

- ◆ ALIVE (Domestic Violence) Hotline  
(314)-993-2777
- ◆ Preferred Family Health  
Adolescent Substance Abuse Program  
(314) 773-3670
- ◆ St. Louis Crisis Nursery South  
(314)-768-3201
- ◆ Housing Resource Center  
(314) 802-5444
- ◆ Job Corps  
(314) 534-3092
- ◆ Educational Coach (MR/DD)  
(314) 421-0090
- ◆ Legal Services of Eastern Missouri  
(314) 534-4200
- ◆ Missouri Division of Aging  
1-(800)-392-0210
- ◆ Missouri Division of Child  
Support Enforcement  
1-(866) 313-9960
- ◆ Missouri Children's Division  
Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline  
1-(800) 392-3738
- ◆ Parent Help Line  
1-(855)-427-2736
- ◆ Public Defender's Office  
(314) 340-7625
- ◆ St. Louis City Juvenile Detention Center  
(314) 552-2194
- ◆ Youth Emergency Services  
(314) 727-6294
- ◆ Youth Connection Helpline  
1-(844) 336-2435  
or  
(314) 485-4635
- ◆ United Way 211  
1-(800) 427-4626 or 211
- ◆ The Spot  
(314) 535-0413



*If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:  
The Assistant Court Administrator/Chief Juvenile  
Officers Office*

*at  
920 North Vandeventer Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri, 63108*

*or  
by telephone  
VOICE (314) 552-2044  
TDD (314) 531-6158*

# Truancy Diversion Program



920 N. Vandeventer Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
(314) 552-2502

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Monday – Friday  
(Except Holidays)

## What is the Truancy Unit?

The Truancy Unit is a diversion program designed to improve the school attendance of referred youth.

## What is the Missouri Compulsory Attendance Law?

Section 167.031 of the Missouri Revised Statutes says that every parent, guardian, or other responsible persons in this state who have charge, custody, or control of a child between the ages of 7 and 17 years are responsible for enrolling the child in a school/ program of academic instruction and ensuring the child attends regularly.

If the child does not attend regularly, the parent, guardian, or other responsible persons will be in violation of the provisions of section 167.061 of the MO Revised Statutes.

A parent, guardian, or responsible person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a class C misdemeanor.

## What is the Truancy Ordinance?

It says that a parent, guardian, or other person who has control or custody of a child between the ages of 7 and 16 must have that child enrolled and attending school daily.

To knowingly permit a child to be absent from school, without a legitimate, documented excuse, is against the law.

*Any person convicted of a violation of this law can be fined \$25.00 for each day the child is absent.*

## What is the City Truancy Court?

The City Truancy Court is where parents are held accountable in St. Louis City Municipal Court for their child(ren)'s absences.

Parents will be sent to City Truancy Court:

- If the child continues to be absent
- If the family has not been cooperating with the assigned DJO through Family Court.
- If a parent has multiple children with numerous absences.
- If there is a history of truancy.

## Will I be fined because my child has numerous absences?

If parents work with the Truancy Unit by cooperating and communicating with the assigned DJO, sending their child(ren) to school daily, attending parent-teacher conferences, and participating in other referred services, the parent's level of cooperation may result in a reduced fine.

## What happens when my child is assigned to a DJO?

Once a DJO is assigned to your family, he/she will provide case management services, regular school visits, home visits, and refer to services. **Parental participation is critical to your child's success in school.**

## What services are available to help my child and me?

Individual and family counseling, tutoring, and a comprehensive evaluation are all available services.

Your child will not be detained, placed in a residential facility, or in Missouri Children Division's custody solely because he/she is absent from school.