



**Alameda County  
District Attorney's Office  
Truancy and Attendance Program**



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Components of a Comprehensive  
Truancy and Attendance Program**

1. Why does it matter?
2. Early intervention work with schools
3. The prosecution process
4. Collaborations with outside agencies
5. Intersection with other areas of the law



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Why Should This Matter to  
the Justice System?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Data to Consider:**  
**What are these numbers in your community?**

- Daytime crimes committed by juveniles
- Daytime juvenile victims of crime
- Murder defendants and murder victims under the age of 21 and grade they stopped attending school

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Early Intervention Strategies**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**every day counts**  
**ATTEND TODAY - ACHIEVE TOMORROW!**  
**Help Your Child Succeed in School!**  
**Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early**  
**School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Missing 10 days of school (about 2 days a week) in 1st grade is a good reason to change to home school.
- Students can still be habituated if they miss just a day or two that every few weeks.
- Being late to school throughout the start of class and not making your child miss important lessons.
- Attendance can affect the school reputation if the teacher has to show their meeting to keep classes on track.
- Good attendance usually allows for early high school college and work.

**Attend school regularly helps children feel better about school - and themselves. Start building this habit early as they can learn right away that going to school on time and every day is important.**

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Use car routines and pack to get to the right location.
- Visit our what day school starts and make sure your child has the required items.
- Send your child the message that school is a fun place. Introduce your child to his/her teacher and classmates. Before school starts to help her transition.
- Bring your child to school unless he/she is truly sick. Keep to strict compliance of a normal after or substitute option for a day of illness and not a reason to skip classes.
- If your child comes across about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselor, or other persons for advice on how to make the child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member or neighbor for another parent to help.
- Plan make of appointments and errands to help when school's closed or start in session.
- Keep track of how many days your child has missed and how many times they've been late.

For more information, visit our website at [www.hillcountrytx.gov](http://www.hillcountrytx.gov)  
 Contact our personnel team at [enrollment@hillcountrytx.gov](mailto:enrollment@hillcountrytx.gov)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**How A Team Can Help at School Site**

- Work with Attendance Personnel
- Create form letters to be sent at start of school year
- Track and Understand data

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**The Prosecution Process**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

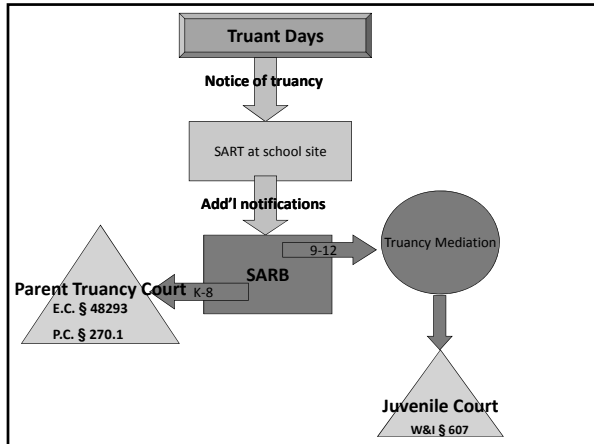
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

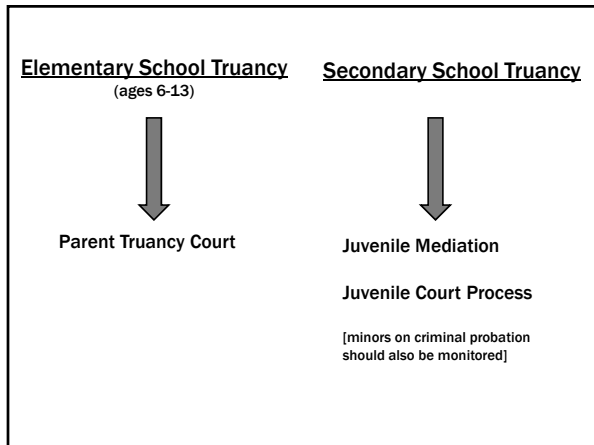
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Referral Paperwork to the D.A.

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

County of \_\_\_\_\_

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child School \_\_\_\_\_

Child Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

County of \_\_\_\_\_

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Child School \_\_\_\_\_

Child Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Referral Paperwork to the D.A.

ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**Probation Referral Form**

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PROBATION OFFICER AND FORWARDED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Offender Name \_\_\_\_\_

Offense \_\_\_\_\_

Probation Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

THIS FORM IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PROBATION OFFICER AND FORWARDED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE.

ALTERNATIVE WORKSHEET (OPTIONAL)

ALTERNATIVE WORKSHEET TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PROBATION OFFICER.

Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

Offender Name \_\_\_\_\_

Offense \_\_\_\_\_

Probation Officer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Activity	Date	Initials of Officer	Initials of Offender

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Secondary School Truancy Mediation Process

- Mediation Hearing Includes Probation/ D.A./ Community Based Organizations

Alameda County Process Mediation for One School Year

Oversight by probation officer to include school and home visits as well as the coordination of services such as tutoring, counseling, drug programs, tattoo removal, etc.

Last resort Filing in Juvenile Court

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Juvenile Court

In California (601 W + I Code)

- Formal probation with terms and conditions
- Mandatory court appearances
- Sanctions for violating order of the court (contempt hearing)

---

---

---

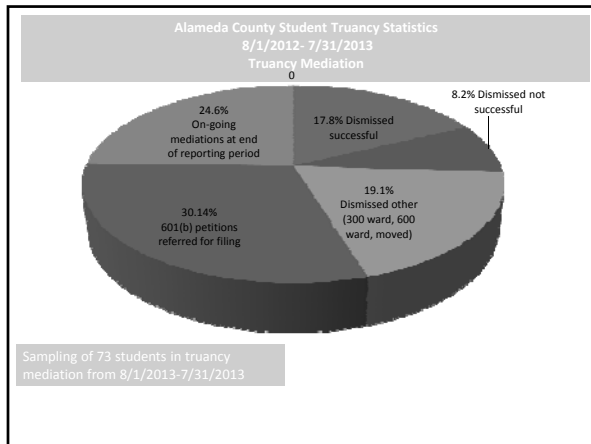
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

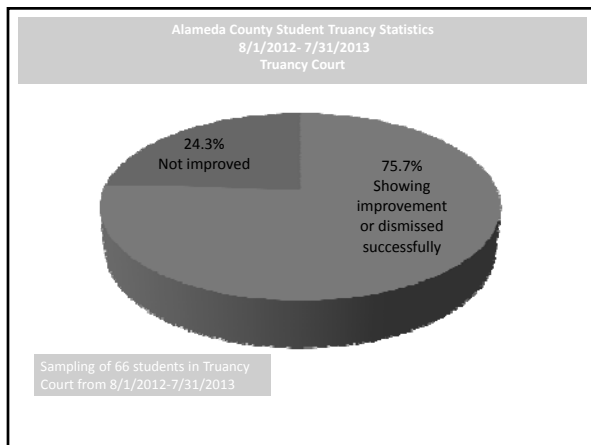
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Parent Truancy Court**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## San Francisco Chronicle

Truancy: Alameda County court educates families



---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### Once in Parent Truancy Court

- Approach to working with the parents and children
- Timeframe
- Methods used to supervise parents and children
- Does it work?



---

---

---

---

---

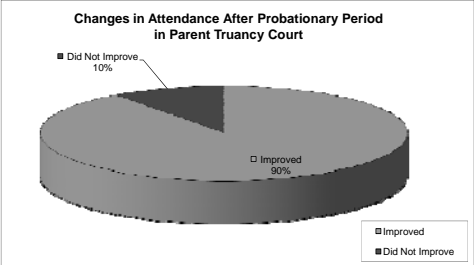
---

---

---

### Truancy Court Data 2012-2013 School Year

Changes in Attendance After Probationary Period in Parent Truancy Court



Category	Percentage
Improved	90%
Did Not Improve	10%

- Sampling of 80 students whose parents/guardians appeared in Parent Truancy Court during the 2012-2013 school year
- Of the students who did not show improvement in attendance, most exhibited a substantial decrease in daily tardies. The primary issue of this group was typically their number of tardies, as opposed to the number of unexcused absences.

---

---

---

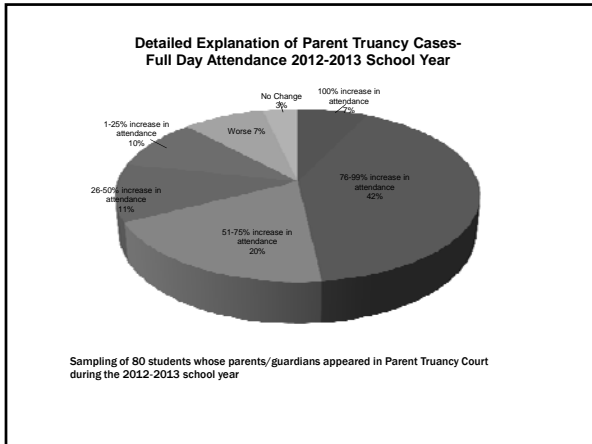
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---


---

---

---

### How to Create a Successful Court Process

- Where to file the cases against the adults
- Consistent judge who is interested in the issue
- Keep a hold of the case for at least one school year
- Bring parents back to court on a regular basis
- Issue bench warrants for failing to appear



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Working With Outside Agencies



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Counseling

- Parenting classes and counseling
- Family and individual therapy
- Referral system to mentors, tutors, "big buddies", etc.
- Drug and alcohol
- Mental health
- Homelessness



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Intersection of Health and Attendance

- H.E.A.L. Program
- Asthma
- Obesity
- Mental health
- Lice
- Detection of other health barriers



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Overlapping Legal Arenas

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Overlap with other Courts and Areas of the Law**

- Juvenile Crime and Bullying
- Human Trafficking/Sexually Exploited Minors
- Family Court
- Dependency Court/Foster Youth

---

---

---

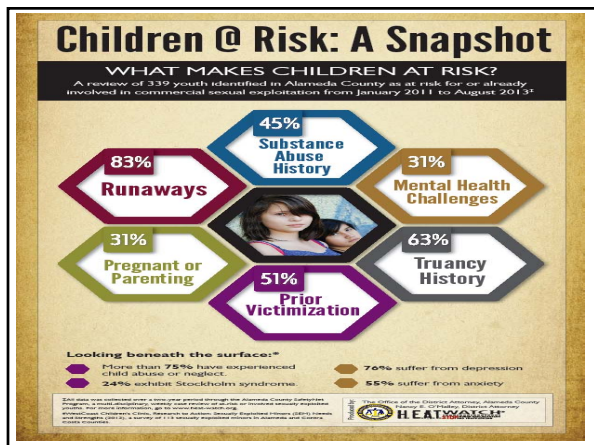
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Family Court Issues**

- Dependency
- Custody
- Domestic Violence

---

---

---

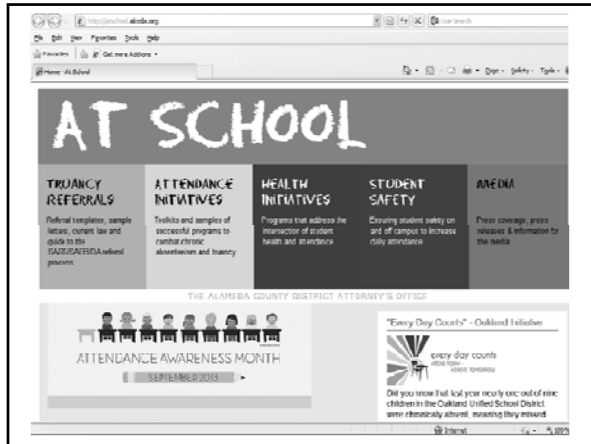
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---


---

---

**Planning a Successful Truancy Program**

**Main Questions:**

- Who needs to be at the table?
- Who will take the lead at the various stages of the process?
- What works in terms of setting up a collaborative?
- Funding?




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Contact Information**

Teresa Drenick, Assistant District Attorney  
 (510) 272-6280  
 teresa.drenick@acgov.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---