



**CHILDREN UNDER
AGE 18 MUST ATTEND
SCHOOL – IT'S THE LAW!**

WHAT IS THE TRUANCY COURT?

The goal of the Kansas City Truancy Court is to ensure that children between the ages of 7 and 17 are in school as mandated by law. The Truancy Court intervention program is designed to improve the school attendance of youth who are referred to the program by their school districts.

IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN AND WOMEN.

~ *Frederick Douglass*

**TRUANCY COURT JUDGE
COREY CARTER**
Kansas City Municipal Court
511 E. 11th Street, Courtroom D
Kansas City, MO 64106

TRUANCY COURT COORDINATOR
816-513-6794

TRUANCY COURT PROSECUTOR
Abby Mueller
816-513-6750

KCMO.GOV/COURT

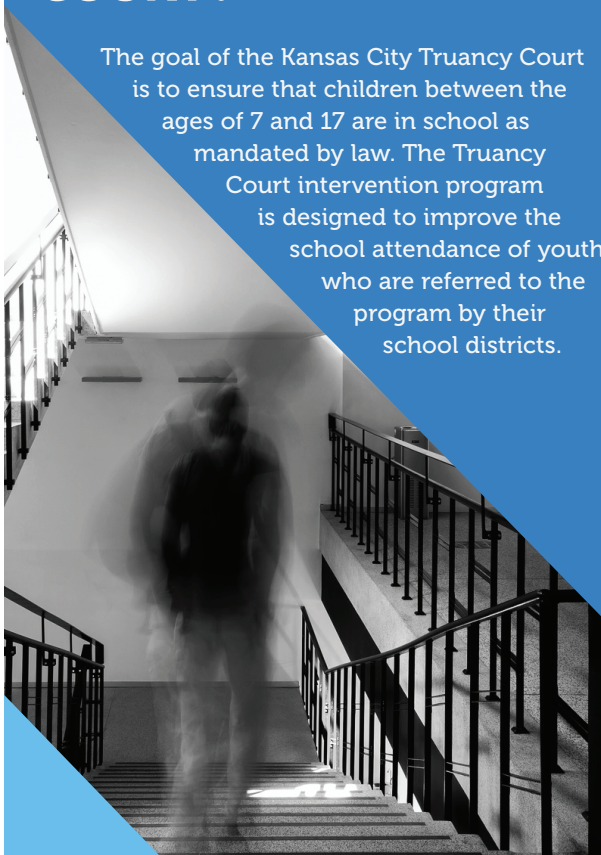
TRUANCY COURT




**KANSAS CITY
Municipal Court**



**Jackson County
COMBAT**
Community • Prevention • Treatment • Justice



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 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 167.031 of the Missouri 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 CITY TRUANCY ORDINANCE?

Section 50-243 of the Kansas City, Missouri Code of Ordinances reads and operates very similar to section 167.031 with a few notable differences (in relevant part):

- (d) Any parent, guardian or other person having charge, control or custody of a child, who violates this provisions of this section is guilty of an ordinance violation. Upon conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500, provided, however the defendant may be offered the opportunity to enter into a pretrial diversion program, with or without the payment of costs, at the discretion of the prosecutor. The diversion program may require a person to successfully complete community service, to successfully complete an organized parenting or counseling program sponsored by a government, church, civic, or school organization to address the child's school attendance and to immediately place or keep the child in regular attendance at a public, private, parochial, parish or home school.

Upon successful completion of such pretrial diversion, the charge will be dismissed.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE KANSAS CITY TRUANCY COURT?

On the first court appearance, parents and guardians will be arraigned (read the facts alleged in the citation and the range of punishment). The court will then determine whether the parent or guardian is willing to cooperate with assistance, if necessary, to bring the child or children back into compliance with the compulsory attendance laws. Assistance may be available through a number of programs and services offered by agencies that have partnered with the court and/ or school to combat truancy, educational neglect, and many other obstacles that may stand in the way of a child's educational success. Parental participation is critical to your child's success in school.

WILL I BE FINED IF MY CHILD OR CHILDREN CONTINUE TO BE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL?

If there is a plea of guilty or a finding of guilty after hearing the named parent or guardian could be fined up to \$500 under section 50-243 of the City of Kansas City, Missouri Code of Ordinances.

AM I ENTITLED TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION?

Since a parent or guardian is subject to a fine only, the Court will not appoint legal representation. However, the Court strongly encourages all parties to consult with an attorney if they believe it is in their best interest to be represented.

WILL A PLEA OF GUILTY OR A FINDING OF GUILTY HAVE AN IMPACT ON MY IMMIGRATION STATUS?

The Court encourages all parties who have concerns about how any legal proceeding may impact them to consult with an attorney.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP MY CHILD AND ME?

ACT

Raising Safe Kids Program
816-718-0500

Aim4PEACE

Violence Prevention Program
816-513-7921

CAPA

Parent Education Class
816-252-8388 ext. 362

Centers for Children's Healthy Lifestyles & Nutrition

610 E. 22nd Street
816-234-9251

Cornerstone of Care

Relationship Education
816-508-3460

KCPD Social Services

Social Services Coordinator
816-949-1738

Missouri Children's Division Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline

1-800-392-3738

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-7233

Swope Health Services

Children Behavioral Health Outpatient Services
816-922-1070