

Dear Educators:

(Abolish Chronic Truancy) ACT NOW RAPID CITY is a truancy initiative that has been in effect for five years and was created in response to the amendments to SDCL § 13-27-1. ACT NOW RAPID CITY is a cooperative effort among the State's Attorney's Office, Court Services, Juvenile Diversion, the Department of Social Services, schools, law enforcement and the community to prevent and reduce truancy in Rapid City schools with a goal of returning the habitual truant minor to school.

As of July 1, 2009, SDCL § 13-27-1 mandates that children between the ages of six and eighteen must attend some public or non-public school for the entire school year.

ACT NOW RAPID CITY has created a uniform enforcement plan that consists of several steps. Thus, in order for this to be effective we at the State's Attorney's Office are asking for your assistance and cooperation in making this a successful program. The following procedure is the only way in which this office will proceed against truant minors in the Rapid City School system, so please review this policy with your administration.

1. All truancy packets must be sent to the State's Attorney's Office for review by a Deputy State's Attorney. (Mandated by SDCL § 26-7A-10). No truancy packets can be sent directly to Juvenile Diversion or Court Services.
2. Within five days the truancy packet will be staffed with Court Services to determine the appropriate action that will be taken.
3. The ACT NOW RAPID CITY screening committee will determine the following actions to be taken:
 - a. Juvenile Diversion and/or Truancy Court
or
 - b. 180 Day Diversion through Court Services
or
 - c. A CHINS Petition will be filed and the minor child will be brought before the juvenile judge
and/or
 - d. The parents will be considered for sanctions through the Juvenile Court or if necessary formal charges for Failure to Send a Child to School will be a possible course of action.
4. The school will be notified of which course of action is to be taken

If the child is under the age of ten, the following action will be taken:

1. All truancy packets must be sent to the State's Attorney's Office for review by a Deputy State's Attorney. (Mandated by SDCL § 26-7A-10). No truancy packets can be sent directly to Juvenile Diversion or Court Services.
2. The minor child will be referred to Juvenile Diversion for their Truancy Court Program.

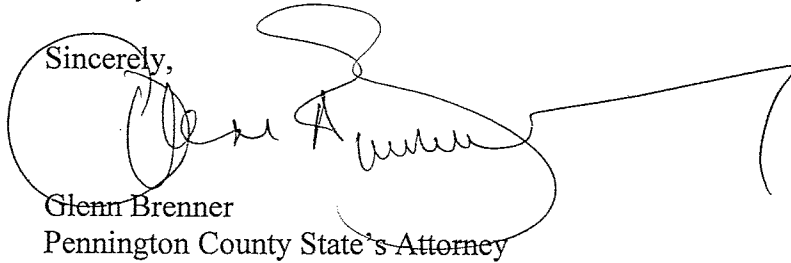
3. The parent could possibly be charged with Failure to Send a Child to School and a referral could be made to the Department of Social Services.

The intent and goal is to reduce the number of truanancies within the school system as a whole and to address the underlying issues that are at the root of non-attendance.

I appreciate your assistance with this process and look forward to working with each of you regarding truancy issues in our community. Please contact Roxie Erickson at the State's Attorney's Office for specific questions or concerns regarding the program. She can be reached by email at roxiee@co.pennington.sd.us or at the number above.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Brenner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Glenn Brenner
Pennington County State's Attorney

Name: _____ Date: _____ JD Staff: _____

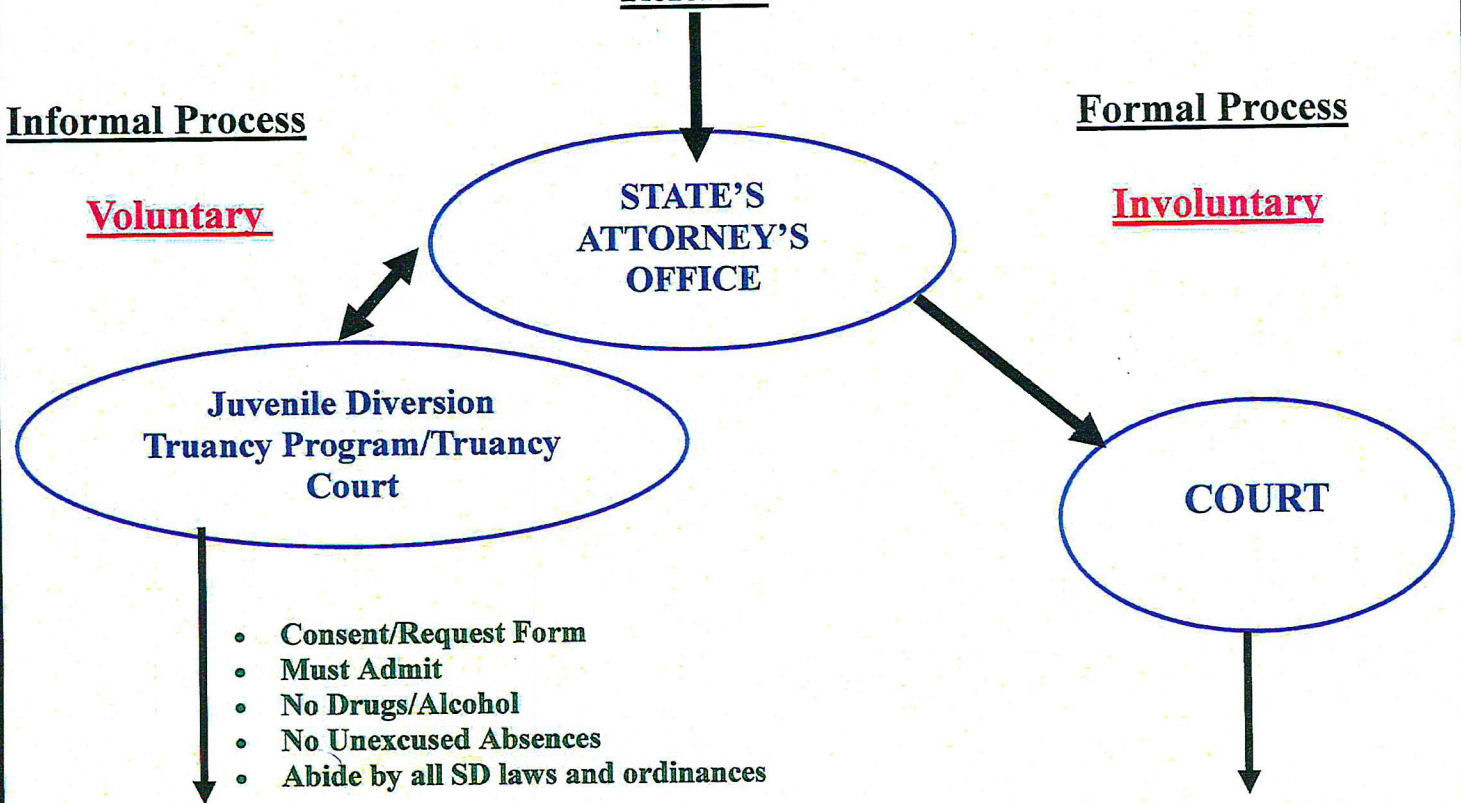
Referral

Informal Process

Formal Process

Voluntary

Involuntary



POSSIBLE CONDITIONS:

- 6 Months maximum
- Progress Report
- Stay on top of assignments
- Planner
- Set time and place for homework
- No tardies
- Weekly/Biweekly Check Ins
- Complete make up assignments
- No Formal Court Record

POSSIBLE CONDITIONS:

- Probation-6 Months minimum
- Curfew
- House Arrest
- Fines/Restitution
- Friends
- Random UA's
- No Tardies
- Daily Check Ins
- Court Record
- JSC

Truancy Assessment

School: _____

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

Form completed by: _____

DOB: ____/____/____ Age: _____

SS#: _____

Sex:

<input type="checkbox"/> M	<input type="checkbox"/> F
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Name of: Parent _____

Race: _____

Or Guardian/Relationship to student _____

Address _____

Number of days absent to date: _____

Number of days in past month: _____

Parent contacted? Y N ?

Parent cooperative? Y N ?

Does family have a home computer? Y N ?

Are they signed up for the Family Access Program? Y N ?

Is it OK for staff from the Juvenile Diversion Program to visit this student child at his/her School? Y N ?

Tribal Affiliation? Y N ? If yes, please list: _____

Failing classes: Y N ?

Suspensions/expulsions:

<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> ?
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Learning disability/special needs?

<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> ?
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Possible reason missing classes: (If known) **(Check all that apply)**

- Transportation problems
- Medical issues
- Family issues (Death, Divorce, Financial)
- Substance abuse
- Other delinquency factors
- DSS involvement
- Other- bullying, emotional, gang problems

Comments: _____

Positive Case Factors: _____

(Interests, in the child's life, i.e.: sports, job, church, and hobbies)

School intervention efforts: Give a brief explanation of what has been done to work with the child/family to avoid formal action? **(Check all that apply)**

- Meet with student/parent
- Schedule changes
- Late start time
- Referral to school counselor
- Community based services (Girl's Inc., YFS, DSS, etc.)

Please Address Truancy Packets to:

Jack Smith, Legal Secretary
Pennington County State's Attorney's Office
300 Kansas City Street Suite 400
Rapid City, SD 57701
Phone.....394-2191

Comments: _____



**OFFICE OF THE PENNINGTON COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY
JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM**

Glenn A. Brenner—State's Attorney

Katy Urban – Juvenile Diversion Director

300 Kansas City Street, Suite 400

Rapid City, SD 57701

Phone: (605) 394-6909

Fax: (605) 394-6093

July 21, 2011

«ParentsGuardian»

«Address»

«City_State_Zip»

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your child, «**FirstName**» «**LastName**», was recently referred to the Juvenile Diversion Truancy Program by the Pennington County State's Attorney's Office because of excessive absences from school.

The goal of Diversion is to provide your family with services to help deal with your child's delinquent behavior. It is a positive alternative to court involvement and if completed successfully, your children will make no court appearances and will not have a juvenile court record.

A **mandatory** Truancy Orientation Meeting has been set up for:

Tuesday, May 3, 2011 @ 4:00pm, to be held at the **Public Safety Building, 300 Kansas City Street, Rapid City, SD**, please report to the **4th floor** and check in with the receptionist.

This is a mandatory attendance for the Parent/Guardian and the child referred. If you and your child do not make it to the Orientation meeting, your child's file may be sent back to the State's Attorney's Office for consideration of formal charges in Juvenile Court.

Please call the Juvenile Diversion Office at 394-6909 upon receipt of this letter.

It is important that you answer all of the questions on the Information Sheet enclosed. If a question does not apply to your child or your family's situation please answer N/A for not applicable. The Information Sheet is a four-page document, and a parent or guardian must complete and sign. **Please return the information sheet at the time of your orientation.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Nicole Moore
Truancy Court Coordinator