



MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TERRY R. CURRY, PROSECUTOR

JUVENILE DIVISION

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Michael R. Pence, Governor
Mary Beth Bonaventura, Director

Indiana Department of Child Services
Marion County Office
4150 N Keystone Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46205-2843

317-968-4300

FAX: 317-542-1323

www.in.gov/dcs

Child Support Hotline: 800-840-8757
Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 800-800-5556

Name of Parent: _____
Name of Child(ren): _____
Name of the School: _____
Name of School Contact: _____
Telephone Number: _____

Dear Parent:

You have received this letter because your child has been absent from school an excessive number of days. There are concerns that these absences are without legal excuse and that you may be failing in your duty as a parent to ensure your child's attendance at school. **Please call the school's contact person listed above immediately to discuss your child's school attendance.**

There are at least five (5) good reasons why *you should do everything you can to make sure that your child attends school every day that school is in session:*

1. It is your legal responsibility as a parent to ensure that your child attends school.
2. If you fail to ensure your child's school attendance, you may be prosecuted for the crime of Failing to Ensure School Attendance, a Class B misdemeanor. The penalty for a Class B misdemeanor carries a penalty of up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars).
3. If it is clear you are knowingly and intentionally depriving your child of an education as required by law, you may be prosecuted for Neglect of a Dependent, a level 6 felony which carries a penalty of up to two and a half (2.5) years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.00 (ten thousand dollars).
4. If it is clear that your child's physical or mental condition is seriously impaired or seriously endangered as a result of your inability, refusal or neglect to supply your child with necessary education, you and your child may be subject to the filing of a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) case in Juvenile Court. This may result in your child being removed from your custody.
5. Children who do not attend school regularly are at an increased risk of suffering many hardships including falling behind in school work and failing classes; dropping out of school; becoming involved in gangs and crime; using alcohol, drugs or tobacco; and failing to obtain a higher education.

We urge you to comply with the law and do everything that you can to make sure that your child attends school. **Please contact the school's contact person listed above immediately to discuss your child's school attendance.**

Sincerely,



Peter Haughan
Chief, Juvenile Division
Marion County Prosecutor's Office



Peggy Surbey
Director/Regional Manager
Indiana Department of Child Services, Marion County