

King County Truancy Court Procedure

2017-2018 School Year

School's Duty

- notify parents of unexcused absences,
- schedule a conference with parent and student to discuss absences,
- take steps to reduce or eliminate student's absences,
- file a Truancy Petition into Juvenile Court by **7 unexcused absences** in a month or **10 unexcused absences** in a school year, or excessive excused absences deemed to cause serious adverse effect upon the student's educational progress

Status Conferences

- After filing, the school is required to periodically report to the court the student's attendance improvement or lack thereof according to the case schedule

Prosecutor's Office Truancy Workshop

- Parent and student provided with information on
 - the importance of regular school attendance,
 - next steps if attendance does not improve,
 - resources within the community;
- Students break off with UTB [Unleash the Brilliance – a peer to peer mentor group]
- Complete an Education Engagement Agreement with the district truancy representative to include the students strengths, barriers to attendance, and possible solutions

Pretrial Conference

- If respondent(s) do not attend the workshop and attendance does not improve and/or respondent is not engaging in interventions, the court will set a pretrial conference
- The petitioner [school district representative] and respondent(s) [student and/or parents] are required to appear in court.

Preliminary Hearing

- If student's attendance does not improve after the workshop or Pretrial Conference and/or respondent(s) are not engaging in interventions, the Petitioner is expected to request a Preliminary Hearing where the Court will take jurisdiction over the respondent(s) and order the student to attend school.
- All parties are required to appear in court.

Progress Reports

- After the Court takes jurisdiction over the matter, the Petitioner is required to file a Progress Report with the Court at least every 90 days to update the court on the student's progress on attendance and academics.
- Parties are not required to appear in court.

Motion for Show Cause

- If the student's attendance does not improve after the Preliminary Hearing and the respondent(s) fail to engage in interventions to improve attendance, the petitioner is expected to file a Motion for Show Cause Contempt why the respondent(s) are failing to abide by the court's order for the student to attend school.

Contempt Conference

- All parties are required to appear for this conference at court,
- The respondent will be assigned an attorney if the respondent is a student,
- Parties and their attorneys will negotiate whether or not to ask the Court to find the respondent in contempt of court, as well as an appropriate sanction and purge condition

Contempt Hearing

- If the parties cannot agree on a recommended order for the court, a Contempt Hearing will be set and all parties are required to appear.
- The court will make a finding as to whether or not the respondent is in Contempt of the court order for the student to attend school.
- The Court will also decide on an appropriate sanction to impose on the respondent after a finding of Contempt.

Purge Review Hearing

- all parties are required to appear for a Purge Review Hearing to determine whether or not the respondent purged the contempt
- The court will impose further sanctions if the respondent failed to purge.

If no further hearings are set

- Petitioner is required to file a Progress Reports with the court at least every 90 days.

Further Contempt/Purge Hearings

- If student's attendance does not improve