

Ute Mountain Truancy Dept.

The new and updated Truancy Ordinance got passed by the Ute Mountain Tribal Council in 2012. The Truancy ordinance states that each child located on the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation between the ages of five and eighteen deserves the opportunity to receive a basic academic education. The purpose of this Ordinance is to require the regular school attendance of all school-aged children located within the reservation.

Below are the following steps that Truancy Dept. follows:

1. If your child is found to be missing four or more unverified absence days from school without proper documentation or is not enrolled in an Educational program the Truancy Dept. will serve a Notice of Truancy to the parent, Guardian or Caretaker. The Notice of Truancy will include the name and address of the child, the number of days the child has missed with a copy attached of the child's attendance records and a statement acknowledging that the parent, Guardian or caretaker received a written notice from the Truancy dept. that the matter is under investigation, and the parent, Guardian or caretaker may contact the Truant officer regarding any truancy issue, and the consequences of failing to abide by the Tribal Truancy ordinance.
2. If your child is still missing school without proper documentation or is in danger of becoming habitually truant after the Notice of Truancy was served the Truant officer will deliver the Informal Hearing Notice. The Informal Hearing Notice will provide a statement requiring the parent, guardian or caretaker and child to attend the Informal Hearing and provide the place and time of the meeting. A statement also advising the parent, guardian or caretaker that failure to attend the Informal Hearing may result in court action and remedial penalties that may include fines and incarceration. The informal hearing may consist of the child and parent .guardian or caretaker and the Truancy Officer. The Education staff and other appropriate tribal or School officials may be present. In the Informal hearing an Educational Treatment Plan will be formed to help the child succeed with their attendance. The parent, guardian or caretaker will then be given a copy of the informal Hearing Contract, that they must sign stating they understand the stipulations.
3. If the Educational Treatment Plan is unsuccessful and the child is still missing school the Truant officer will submit a Petition in Truancy to the CFR court. Then the parent, guardian or caretaker along with the child must appear in court to take care of the child's truancy issues. The court may set periodic review hearings to review the child's success and to make sure the parties are in compliance with the court's orders. The court may order the child to get an evaluation where needed. Failure to show at court may result in fines, periods of incarceration or warrants.

The Truancy Dept. is here to ensure that your child has every opportunity to succeed in school. Any questions or concerns can be answered by the Truancy Officer.

Phone (970) 565-3751 Ext.346

Fax (970) 564-5342

Email: mhouse@utemountain.org