

## **MAKING THE TRUANCY COURT EXPERIENCE WORK FOR YOU**

- ◆ Maintain contact with the Visiting Teacher (VT). Your VT can help you with issues at school and in finding resources for your child.
- ◆ Maintain contact with the Court. Truancy Court is structured to provide a setting where family supports and other resources can be identified and work together.
- ◆ The Truancy Case Manager is available to answer any questions you might have.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement/severe weather, please call the Court to confirm the status of your scheduled hearing. Due to case volume, the Court is unable to call defendants individually to notify them when cases have been continued/re-scheduled due to inclement/severe weather.

## **CONTACTING YOUR TRUANCY COURT**

### **New Castle County**

JP Court #10  
210 Greenbank Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
302~995~8640

### **Kent County**

JP Court #7  
480 Bank Lane  
Dover, DE 19904  
302~739~4554

### **Sussex County**

JP Court #1  
9 Main Street  
Frankford, DE 19945  
302~732~9580

State of Delaware



Justice of the Peace  
Truancy Court

HELPFUL INFORMATION

AND TIPS FOR  
NAVIGATING THE  
TRUANCY COURT  
PROCESS

## WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND

- ◆ The date, time, and location of your arraignment is on the first page of your summons.
- ◆ Your hearing will be at the Truancy Court in the county in which you are charged:

### NEW CASTLE COUNTY

JP Court #10, Wilmington

### KENT COUNTY

JP Court #7, Dover

### SUSSEX COUNTY

JP Court #1, Frankford

- ◆ If you find mistakes in your child's attendance report, bring any necessary documentation to your hearing, such as notes from doctors or counselors.
- ◆ According to Delaware Law, a student is considered "truant" if he/she has more than 3 unexcused absences during the course of the school year.

- ◆ According to Delaware Law, school districts must file truancy charges after a student has reached 20 unexcused absences.
- ◆ Children under 12 years of age cannot be charged with truancy (failure to attend school). Only a parent can be charged if a child is under 12 years of age.
- ◆ A truancy charge for a child 12 years of age or over is a civil charge.
- ◆ A truancy charge for a parent (failure to send a student to school) is a criminal charge.

## YOUR FIRST COURT APPEARANCE

- ◆ Your first appearance in Truancy Court is an arraignment. The truancy charge will be explained, and you will be asked to enter a plea of "guilty" or "not guilty" (for adults) or "responsible" or "not responsible" (for juveniles).
- ◆ If you plead "not guilty" or "not responsible, your case will be scheduled for trial.

## AFTER ARRAIGNMENT/TRIAL

- ◆ If you enter a plea of "guilty" or "responsible" at arraignment or are found "guilty or "responsible" at trial, your case will enter the "case review" process.
- ◆ The purpose of the "case review" is to identify why a child is not attending school and work with the child and family to solve the problems.
- ◆ Following each "case review," the parent and/or child will be provided with a list of "bond conditions." All defendants are required to comply with all Court-ordered conditions.
- ◆ Bond orders include the date, time, and location of the next "case review."
- ◆ If you achieve "full compliance" with the Court, the original truancy charge will be cleared (expunged) from your record.