

LEGAL AUTHORITY FOR S.T.O.P.

California Education Codes (EC) that apply are:

- **48200** – Mandates school attendance for youths between the ages of 6 – 18 years. It also mandates that parents or guardians send the pupil to school.
- **48400** – If employed, 16 – 17 year olds, may have a minimum schedule of attendance.
- **48412** – A 16 – 17 year old may be exempt from **EC48200** if they pass the California High School Proficiency Exam.
- **48260** – Any student who is absent without a valid excuse more than three days, or is tardy in excess of 30 minutes on each of three or more days in any one school year, is a **TRUANT**.
- **48262** – Any student is deemed to be a **habitual truant** who has been reported truant three or more times per school year.
- **48265** – A detained pupil must be transported to a non-secure youth service center for counseling prior to returning such student to the control of the school or parents/guardians. If the student is found to be a habitual truant, he/she shall be brought to a probation officer for referral.

California Welfare and Institution Codes (W&I) that apply are:

- **601** – Any person under 18 who habitually refuses to obey the orders of parents or guardians, or violates any ordinance of the city, county, or state regarding curfew based on age, may be judged a ward of the juvenile court. If a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) rules that available services cannot correct habitual truancy of a minor; the minor is then within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
- **625** – A peace officer may, without a warrant, take into custody any minor described in Sections 300, 601, 602, 636, or 702.
- **11253.5** – Authorizes county CalWorks programs to reduce family welfare if a child is not regularly attending school.

Court decisions regarding truancy enforcement:

In a variety of cases, the courts have ruled that the police are justified in taking into custody any student who is more than thirty minutes tardy and is not proceeding directly toward his/her school of attendance.

Note: All codes and laws cited have been paraphrased or summarized. For a detailed explanation of the law consult the S.T.O.P. officer in charge of the truancy center.

Student Truancy Offender Program

A program by the Oxnard Police Department in conjunction with the Weed and Seed Program, District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Probation, Oxnard School Districts and local non-profit organizations.



Truancy Center: 805-385-8232
located at:
350 South K Street Room 201 & 214



Student Truancy Offender Program



S.T.O.P.

Truancy . . .

Stay in School!



*A Program Designed to Keep Kids In School -
Promoting Education and Reducing the
Opportunity for Them to Become Victimized or
Engaged in Criminal Acts.*



WHY S.T.O.P. TRUANCY?

Studies show 75% of students who were truant in both elementary and high schools did not graduate from high school; 60% of high school dropouts are unemployed; and 71% of those in prison never finished high school and cited truancy as a primary reason for falling behind . . . causing them to drop out.

Truancy has been directly linked to daytime juvenile crime. Unsupervised students also face a high risk of victimization and involvement in youth violence. As a result, the concept of **S.T.O.P.** (Student Truancy Offender Program) was developed to deal with these issues.

S.T.O.P. was started in September 2000. The goals— to keep kids in school so they can complete their education and to remove the opportunity for them to participate in criminal activities or become victimized.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

The Oxnard Police Department operates a STOP truancy center at the Police Activities League located at the corner of West Fifth St. and South K St. Truants are brought to the center, processed, and their parents are contacted. Underlying reasons for the student's truancy will be discussed in an attempt to help the child attend school and complete his/her education.

HOW DO STUDENTS PREVENT BEING PICKED UP BY S.T.O.P. OFFICERS?

To avoid being picked up for truancy, all students who are late or are leaving school during regular school hours must carry a note from their parent/guardian or a school pass.

A note from their parent/guardian containing the juvenile's name, time they left home and an explanation of the tardiness will greatly expedite the student's trip to school in most cases.

The school shall supply temporary passes for students who must leave campus before school is out. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the pass and carry it while school is in session.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CENTER?

- The officer that brings a truant to the center completes a form that contains all pertinent information regarding the student.
- Case workers then complete a detailed form containing remarks regarding habitual truancy, juvenile history and other information relevant to the incident.
- If the student is on probation from the juvenile courts, the assigned probation officer will determine the disposition of the incident.

- If the truant was apprehended in the commission of a crime, he/she is processed into the juvenile probation system.
- If the school attendance officer attests to a history of truancy, the child and parent are referred for counseling.

HOW IS THE CASE DISPOSED?

- In the vast majority of cases, the parents are called, informed of the truancy and are asked to pick up the student and return him/her to school.
- In case of a misdemeanor or felony offense or probation violation, the child will be booked into Juvenile Hall.
- In certain cases, diversion programs are available to assist the student in achieving regular attendance in school.
- In cases of habitual truancy, the juvenile and family will be referred to counseling service providers at the truancy center.
- In cases where no corrective behavior is noticed in a student's habitual truancy status, both the student and/or the parents will be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB) and the District Attorney's office for a Truancy Mediation.