A TRUANCY REFERRED TO THE GOODHUE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REQUIRES:

1) Name, date of birth, and home address of child;

2) Child’s gender;

3) Child’s race (if known)

4) Child’s tribal affiliation (if known)

5) Full names and home addresses of **both** parents, and/or guardians and telephone numbers of same;

6) Parents’ date of birth and race (if known);

7) A copy of the child's attendance record;

8) A description of efforts the school has made to remedy the truancy;

9) Any problems the child has which you feel impact school attendance; and

10) Please send contact information for the person signing the petition, including name, telephone number, and e-mail address.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Regular school attendance is required by Minnesota State Law. A truant is defined by state law, M.S. 260C.007, Subd. 19, as a child under the age of 16 years who is absent from school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 16 or 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.

Please make every effort to cooperate with your child's school regarding attendance. If your child has been determined to be truant, this will result in a Petition to be filed in Goodhue County District Court at which time both you and your child will be required to appear.

Very truly yours,

GOODHUE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Carol K. Lee

Assistant County Attorney

CKL/jm

August 23, 2010

Re: Truancies

Dear School Principals and Social Workers:

We are approaching the eighth school year that our truancy procedure has been in effect. We appreciate your cooperation.

We have prepared a letter on our office letterhead which your staff can distribute to parent(s) and child when you are still in the stage of conferencing with them about the truancy. This letter will explain the law and the consequences of disregarding the law. If the truancy does not resolve, and the child has the number of truancies required by the statute, we will then petition the child and family to Court.

We are aware that there are some situations which undoubtedly will require Court intervention. We have found that in most cases the child returns to school. There have been a number of cases where the Court has ordered a chemical dependency evaluation, and/or a psychological evaluation, and other dispositions.

Please be advised that if there are child protection issues other than truancy for children over 10 years of age, or truancies for children under 10 years of age, you should first contact Goodhue County Social Services before you contact this office.

You will please note that this year we are asking the school to provide additional information for a truancy petition. This is due to direct instructions from the Minnesota Supreme Court through the Child Protection Rules. We ask that you make your best effort to provide the information. If you are unable to do so, we can address any further required information at the first court appearance.

If you have any questions or concerns about truancy, please feel free to contact me at 651-267-4950.

Very truly yours,

GOODHUE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Carol K. Lee

Assistant County Attorney

CKL/jm [carol.lee@co.goodhue.mn.us](mailto:carol.lee@co.goodhue.mn.us)

Enclosures