

COTTONWOOD COUNTY
DIVERSION MEETING

- GOAL:
- (a) To identify reasons why the student is truant.
 - (b) To develop a multi-disciplinary plan to resolve the truancy problem.
 - (c) To write a concrete Truancy Diversion Contract to assist the student and family in order that the student will consistently attend school.
 - (d) To refer the truant student to court for Adjudication should the contract fail.

The Diversion Team may consist of school personnel, an agent from the County Probation Department, a Social Service staff person, law enforcement personnel, truant student and parent. The Diversion Meeting is chaired and coordinated by the Office of the County Attorney.

The Diversion Team shall assess the reasons why the child has been truant, what steps can be taken to address the truancy problem, and whether the child shall appear in Court.

1. If it is determined the child should appear in Court, the County Attorney will file the citation and a court date will be set. The County Attorney will document any written supporting documentation, as to the reason diversion was not appropriate. Supporting documentation shall indicate whether Cottonwood County Family Services or the Cottonwood County Probation Department will be the primary case management agency, and who the assigned agent or social worker is, and the proposal for disposition.
2. If the child is considered for Diversion. The Diversion Team will assess the student's potential for diversion by:
 - a. Reviewing and discussing the Social History Questionnaire completed by the student and family.
 - b. Reviewing any assessments and school data which has been collected before the Diversion Team meets.
 - c. The Diversion Team will meet with the student and parents to prepare a Diversion review with the Student, his/her legal rights and responsibilities under the CHIPS statute. The Diversion Team will assure all Releases of Information have been signed.

THE COTTONWOOD COUNTY
DIVERSION CONTRACT

1. If the truancy is because of negative or delinquent behavior there may be sanctions, which could include community work service, donation to a charity, or school detention.
2. In some cases, either the school personnel, Southwest Mental Health Center, or another mental health professional, may assess the child for mental health concerns.
3. Other possible consequences could include establishing a curfew, meetings with probation agent, in-home services through the Cottonwood County Family Services, referral to another appropriate school setting, i.e. ALC school, Day treatment or, in some cases, placement outside the home.
4. Based on information provided during the Diversion meeting, a decision will be made by the Team as to which agency, Social Services or Probation Department, will provide primary case management. If a child is currently involved with either Social Services or Probation Department, that agency shall provide primary management. The primary case manager shall be determined at the Diversion Team meeting and designated on the Diversion Contract.
5. If a child does not abide by the Diversion Contract, it may be grounds for revocation of the contract. The primary case manager shall call the County Attorney to notify him when the contract is not being followed, or if other offenses have occurred, and request he file the Truancy citation. Written documentation shall be sent to the County Attorney from the primary case manager, including the following: The Diversion Contract, a memo stating how the child has failed to comply with the Diversion Contract, an updated school attendance record, updated social history information, or further assessments that document the reasons for filing the Truancy citation.
6. If the Diversion Contract is successfully completed, a letter will be submitted by the caseworker to the County Attorney, with a request to discard the Truancy citation.

TRUANCY DIVERSION INTAKE QUESTIONNAIRE

Child'S Name:

DOB:

EDUCATION

Child's grade?

Child's academic status?

Child's behavior and attitude at school?

School's efforts to date to address school absences?

TRUANCY

Reasons child was truant?

Can't wake up

Drugs or Alcohol

Psychological issues

Job

Family Conflict

What did child do during time he/she missed school?

Parents responses and ideas regarding their child's truancy?

What do parents feel will help resolve this truancy problem?

What does child feel will help resolve this truancy problem?