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To Custer County children and their parents, guardians or custodians:

With the arrival of a new school year it is a good time to remind parents that Oklahoma has a compulsory school attendance law. It is a crime for a parent, guardian, or other person having custody of a child who is over the age of 5 and under the age of 18 to neglect or refuse to cause or compel the child to attend school and comply with the rules of a public, private or other school unless other means of education are provided for the full term the schools of the district are in session or the child is otherwise excused under the law. Custer County has established a Truancy Court to expedite the cases of those prosecuted for violating Oklahoma's compulsory attendance laws.

The punishment range for a violation of the compulsory school attendance laws increase with each violation and include the possibility of both fines and imprisonment. Each day the child remains out of school may constitute a separate offense after a documented oral or written warning has been given to the parent, guardian, custodian, child or other person or the child has been ordered to school by the juvenile court. In addition to a possible fine and imprisonment, a parent found guilty of violating the law can also be placed on probation and, as a condition of that probation, be required to attend parenting classes, anger management classes or counseling; perform community service; submit to random drug tests; and/or any other type of services of the Court deems appropriate.

It is not the intention of anyone association with the Truancy Court system to add to your problems or otherwise harass you. Truancy costs children more than their education, it costs them their future. Studies have shown that children who attend school regularly: a) make better grades, b) develop and maintain friendships, c) are more likely to make good choices, and most importantly, d) children are more likely to become responsible citizens by being in school. We want all students to excel and be successful with their education. Being in school helps make that happen!

Included with this letter is additional information about the law and the Custer County Truancy Court.

If you have any questions about Truancy Court, please do not hesitate to contact Assistant District Attorney Anthony Moore at (580) 323-3232.

Very truly yours,


Angela C. Marsee
District Attorney