



**CHEROKEE COUNTY  
TRUANCY PANEL**

## CHEROKEE COUNTY TRUANCY PANEL

### Purpose:

Recognizing that students who do not attend school regularly are often experiencing problems that need attention from several agencies in the community, The Cherokee County Truancy Panel is committed to providing a collaborative approach to address this range of problems. These problems might include economic difficulties, health and welfare problems, drug abuse problems, and mental health problems.

### Approach:

The Truancy Panel will be made up of professionals from within the community with at least three or four panel members serving on the panel each month. The panel might include a representative from the Department of Family and Children Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Highland Rivers Center for Mental Health, Cherokee County Health Department, and Family Connections.

School Social Workers for the Cherokee County School System will be responsible for bringing families before the Truancy Panel when efforts to regulate the child's attendance have failed. Before coming before the panel, the school social worker will have made or attempted two or more contacts with the parent or guardian by letters, phone calls, or home visits. The Panel will listen to the concerns of the family, and the concerns of the school system and any other agency representative who might be working with the family and develop a contract with the family to improve school attendance. School administrators and/or counselors, who have input might also be present to provide information and support for the Truancy Panel.

The Truancy Panel will meet monthly from **October** through **May** each school year from **8:30 a.m.** to **noon** at the **Justice Center** in downtown Canton. This will be a standing meeting unless notified otherwise. The meeting dates will be the **first and second Tuesday** of each of these months. Seven three and one half-hour meetings a year would make the total commitment from each agency representative equal to about one 24-hour day or a 48-hour commitment if the same representative serves on both panels. School social workers will deliver or mail letters to families who are invited to appear before the Truancy Panel each month.

**CHEROKEE COUNTY TRUANCY PANEL  
INFORMATION SHEET**

**School:**

**Student:**

**Grade:**

**Student I.D.:**

**Panel Meeting Date and Time:**

**Please list this students' attendance for each year in public school where records are available, beginning with kindergarten and ending with present year to date. List days tardy also if tardiness has been significant.**

**Please list student grades or academic status for the current school year to date.**

**Describe any significant discipline problems the students may be having at school.**

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Describe any significant family problems that you are aware of that may be contributing to poor attendance or academic failure.

**Describe any initiatives taken or accommodations made by the school to try and help with any problems previously mentioned. (Examples: schedule changes, contracts, rewards or incentives, financial assistance, counseling, etc.)**

Other Comments:

Who will be attending the panel meeting to represent the school?

Principal or Designee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Cherokee County Truancy Panel  
Procedures**

**Prior to the monthly meeting**

- school social worker will remind agency contacts of the meeting
- school social worker will provide each agency contact a listing of families due to appear before the panel
- school social worker will notify parents of the meeting and schedule a time for each family to appear before the panel

**The morning of the meeting**

- juvenile and family court programs director will have notices posted in the Justice Center to direct families to the meeting room (Law Library - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor)
- panel will consist of a representative from the Department of Family and Children Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Highland Rivers Center for Mental Health, Department of Public Health, and a representative from Family Connections, with one representative serving as chairperson
- school social worker will provide a capsule of the problem to the panel before the parents enter
- school social worker will provide a copy of the agreement form to the chairperson
- school social worker will introduce any school personnel present
- school social worker will introduce the family to the panel
- chairperson for the panel will greet the family, introduce the panel to the family and explain the goal of the meeting
- panel will listen to the family story and counsel with the family
- chairperson will draw up the agreement and present it to the family and the panel for signatures
- panel will provide copies of the agreement to the family, the school, and the school social worker

CHEROKEE COUNTY TRUANCY PANEL ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT

As the parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, you are hereby notified that your child is not meeting the compulsory attendance requirements of state law. Georgia law requires minor children to be enrolled in and attend school. A parent/guardian may be held responsible for the child's failure to report to school according to 20-2-690.1 of the Georgia code. A fine not to exceed \$100.00 per day the child is absent or jail sentence not to exceed 30 days may be assessed against the parent/guardian.

To avoid further legal action, I (parent/guardian) will take the following steps to correct my child's attendance problems:

- 1. I will see that my child attends school daily unless a written doctor's excuse is provided to the school.
2. I will personally contact my child's school by 10:00 a.m. when my child is too sick to attend school.
3. I will obtain counseling for my family.
4. I will contact my child's school within three days to set up a parent/teacher conference.
5. I will work with the school to help resolve problems or conflicts involving my child.
6. I will agree to send my child to school and let school staffs determine if child needs to return home due to any illness.
7. I will have my child at school on time each day.

I (student) agree to the following conditions:

- 1. I will attend school and be on time each day.
2. I will obey all the rules of the school.
3. I will obey my parents and work with them to improve my attendance at school.

ADDITIONAL CHEROKEE COUNTY TRUANCY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_, understand that failure to meet the above legal responsibilities may result in referral to the Juvenile or Superior Court and/or the Department of Family and Children Services of Cherokee County, Georgia.

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ date

Parent/guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ date

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ date

Panel Members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

School Social Worker \_\_\_\_\_