

## Truancy Mediation Program Referrals – Canyons School District

### When to do the referral:

At any time you are concerned about a student's attendance and according to CSD policy.

### How to make the referral:

- School will contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) and, in a non-threatening way, discuss the need for the mediation and explore three available dates/times for the mediation
- Send truancy mediation information sheet to parent(s) or guardian(s)
- Email the referral information to [3rdjuvtruancymediation@utcourts.gov](mailto:3rdjuvtruancymediation@utcourts.gov). The referral information should include the following:
  - Times available for student, parent, and school administrator
  - Student Name
  - Student Date of Birth
  - Grade Level
  - Parent/Guardian Name
  - School administrator or contact person with phone number
- To speak directly with the Truancy Mediation coordinator, you may contact Tayla Egersheim at the Third District Juvenile Court (801) 957-7859.
- Tayla will arrange for a mediator and notify the school of the mediator's name and phone number.
- The school will confirm the time of the mediation with the parent(s) and guardian(s)

### Who should attend the mediation:

- Student
- Parent(s) or guardian(s)
- All school staff involved with the student's attendance (principal, assistant principal, school counselor, school psychologist, etc.)

### What to expect:

- All truancy mediations are done at the school
- Room size – a private room adequate for 6-10 people
- Plan on 2 hours per mediation (school staff will not be present in the mediation for the entire 2 hours but a school representative with authority to make decisions needs to remain available)
- Individual private meetings with student, parent, or staff

### During the mediation, a school contact person provides:

- Forms (Agreement to Mediate, Memo of Understanding, Evaluation forms)
- School reports (attendance, grades) for student and parent(s) or guardian(s)

### After the mediation:

- File the original Agreement to Mediate and the Memo of Understanding at the school
- Give a copy to the student/parent
- Send evaluation forms to Bart MacKay in the pre-paid envelope that will be provided.
- If the agreement is not kept and case is referred to court attach a copy of the Mome of Understanding with the court referral

Please contact Tayla Egersheim (801)957-7859 [taylae@utcourts.gov](mailto:taylae@utcourts.gov) or Robert Curfew: (801)957-7850 or [robertdc@utcourts.gov](mailto:robertdc@utcourts.gov) with questions or to get more information.

# TRUANCY MEDIATION PROGRAM

## Information for parents & students

### **What is Truancy Mediation?**

Truancy Mediation is offered to families as an alternative to a formal referral to the juvenile court for habitual truancy. Mediation is a process that uses the presence and skills of a neutral third party (mediatory) to assist people to resolve conflict in a safe environment where all viewpoints are acknowledged. The mediator assists the people involved to create and test the feasibility of possible solutions until they can agree on an outcome that serves all.

Truancy mediation provides a relaxed atmosphere for the student, parents, and school personnel to discuss the truancy problem. The program uses a team approach rather than an adversarial approach to resolve the problem. The agreements are individualized to meet the needs of the student and the school.

Truancy mediation is voluntary for everyone involved. The student, parents, or school may choose to go to court at any time during the process. The mediation is also confidential.

### **Who are the mediators?**

All of the trained mediators in the program are volunteers from the community or ADR staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR Department). The mediators are not employed by the student's school or the school district.

### **What does a mediation session look like?**

The mediation is held at the student's school. **Plan for the mediation session to last about 2 hours.** The mediation is held in a private room with all the participants sitting around a table. The mediator begins by describing the process and the ground rules for the mediation. Then everyone around the table is given the opportunity to share his/her point of view regarding the truancy problem. Usually the mediator will also spend time alone with the student/parent, and school to allow people to share privately and to brainstorm possible solutions.

When possible solutions have been identified, the group is brought back together to discuss and finalize the solution in the form of an agreement (plan).

What are the benefits of Truancy Mediation?

- The program is supportive versus adversarial and attempts to get at the source of the truancy problem.
- It puts the school personnel, parents, and student on a level playing field.
- Communication between parents, school, and students is improved. The student is also very active in the decision-making process.
- More information becomes available to all involved. This leads to a better understanding of obstacles and challenges faces by both school and family.
- Relationships between the student and school staff are strengthened as well as relationships between the parents and school staff.

If you have questions or would like more information about this program you may contact:

Robert Curfew, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Juvenile Court Program Coordinator, (301)957-7850  
or Bart MacKay, State Program Coordinator, (435) 986-5754

# PROGRAMA DE MEDIACIÓN DE AUSENTISMO ESCOLAR

## Información para los padres y estudiantes

### ¿Qué es Mediación de Ausentismo Escolar?

Mediación de Ausentismo Escolar se le ofrece a las familias como una alternativa a enviarlos formalmente a la corte de juveniles por ausentismo habitual. El proceso de mediación consiste de una tercera persona neutral (mediador) capacitada para ayudar a las personas a resolver conflictos en un ambiente seguro donde todos los puntos de vista son reconocidos. El mediador ayuda a las personas involucradas a crear y probar la viabilidad de soluciones posibles hasta que se pueda llegar a un acuerdo que beneficie a todos.

La mediación de Ausentismo Escolar proporciona un ambiente tranquilo para el estudiante, los padres y el personal de la escuela para hablar sobre el problema de absentismo escolar. El programa utiliza un enfoque de equipo en lugar de un enfoque adversarial para resolver el problema. Los acuerdos son individualizados para cumplir con las necesidades del estudiante y la escuela.

La Mediación de Ausentismo Escolar es voluntaria para todos. El estudiante, los padres, o la escuela pueden optar por llevar su caso a la corte juvenil en cualquier momento durante el proceso. La mediación también es confidencial.

### ¿Quiénes son los Mediadores?

Todos los mediadores entrenados en el programa son voluntarios de la comunidad o bien, personal del ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) de las Oficinas Administrativas del Tribunal (Administrative Offices of the Court). Los mediadores no son empleados por la escuela de los estudiantes ni por el distrito escolar.

### ¿Cómo es una sesión de Mediación?

La mediación se lleva a cabo en la escuela del estudiante. Planifique que la sesión de mediación dure aproximadamente dos horas. La mediación se llevara a cabo en una sala privada en donde todos los participantes se sientan alrededor de una mesa. El mediador inicia la sesión describiendo el proceso y las reglas básicas para la mediación. Después todos alrededor de la mesa tienen la oportunidad de compartir su punto de vista con respecto al problema de ausentismo escolar. Por lo general, el mediador también pasa tiempo en privado con el estudiante, los padres y la escuela para permitir que compartan en privado y para hacer una lluvia de ideas de soluciones posibles.

Cuando se hayan identificado soluciones posibles, se vuelve a reunir el grupo para hablar y finalizar las soluciones en forma de un acuerdo (plan).

### ¿Cuáles son los Beneficios de Mediación de Ausentismo Escolar?

- El programa es de apoyo, no es adversarial y trata de llegar al fondo del problema de ausentismo escolar.
- Este programa logra que el personal de la escuela, padres y estudiante estén en la misma página.
- Se mejora la comunicación entre los padres, la escuela y los estudiantes. También el estudiante participa más en el proceso de toma de decisiones.
- Habrá más información disponible para todos los que estén involucrados, lo cual quiere decir que se logra un mayor entendimiento de los obstáculos y retos a los cuales enfrentan la escuela y la familia.
- Se fortalecen las relaciones entre el estudiante y el personal de la escuela, al igual que las relaciones entre los padres y el personal de la escuela.