

HANCOCK COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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Dear Parents and Guardians,
Hancock County is committed to encouraging the happiness and potential of our youth. Safeguarding their positive future requires your cooperation to ensure consistent school attendance, which is a vital step in helping students to master the academic skills necessary to succeed in life. Truancy can result in damaging and far-reaching consequences and can harmfully impact our young people in ways they may not yet fully comprehend. Students who do not attend school regularly are at much greater risk of developing substance abuse problems and engaging in criminal activity. The State of Indiana has several laws related to school attendance with which you should become familiar. Please be aware that failing to enforce your child's attendance at school is a crime and may lead to criminal prosecution. The relevant Indiana Laws are as follows:

1) IC 20-33-2-28

It is unlawful for a parent to: 1) fail; 2) neglect; or 3) refuse; to send the parent's child to a public school for the full term as required under this chapter unless the child is being provided with instruction equivalent to that given in the public schools.

A violation of this law is class B misdemeanor and is punishable by up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.

2) IC 35-46-1-4(a)(4)

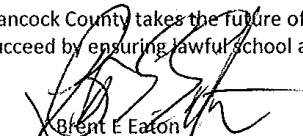
A person having the care of a dependent...who knowingly or intentionally:
(4) deprives the dependent of education as required by law; commits neglect of a dependent.

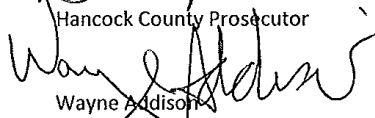
A violation of this law is a Level 6 Felony and is punishable by up to 2 ½ years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

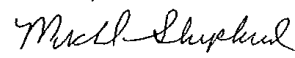
3) IC 31-37-2-3

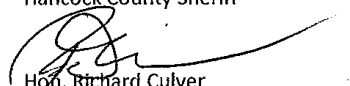
A child commits a delinquent act if, before the age of 18, the child violates 20-33-2 concerning compulsory school attendance.

Hancock County takes the future of its youth seriously. Please give your child the best opportunity to succeed by ensuring lawful school attendance.


Brent E. Eaton
Hancock County Prosecutor


Wayne Addison
Chief Probation Officer


Michael Shepherd
Hancock County Sheriff


Hon. Richard Culver
Hancock County Circuit Court Judge