



Truancy Mediation Program

Truancy Mediation is process that brings parents and school representatives together with a neutral mediator present to find a fair and workable solution to a child's truancy problem.

The role of the Crossroads mediator is to bring the family and school together and make sure that everyone has a fair opportunity to speak.

Truancy mediation gives parents the opportunity to get more involved in their child's education. It allows parents to settle truancy problems without going to court.

Why choose mediation?

- ◆ Free
- ◆ Confidential to the extent provided by law
- ◆ Informal
- ◆ Non-binding
- ◆ Avoid court intervention
- ◆ Effective

How does it work?

Parents and teachers meet privately with the mediator for about one hour. Both parties are given a chance to explain what they think is happening. It is important that everyone understand the issues involved as well as the other party's point of view.

The mediator identifies and summarizes the issues. With the assistance of the mediator, both parties are asked to come up with possible solutions. These ideas will be shared, with the goal of creating an agreement that everyone can commit to and follow. Since the solutions come from the parties, there is a high likelihood that all parties will accept it and work together to make it work.

The end result is a written agreement to help the child avoid further truancy and tardiness. All parties are given a copy of the agreement, and a plan to follow up to assure success is developed.

Why is school attendance so important?

A student who misses several days of school each month may be developing a pattern of truancy. This is a cause for concern, since children who miss significant amounts of school are at risk for developing academic, behavior, and emotional problems. These students are also at increased risk for dropping out of school, or becoming involved with the juvenile court system.

How to I get help?

Crossroads offers the Truancy Mediation program in conjunction with local school systems. All mediators have received special training for the program. Research shows that a combination of mediation, counseling and connecting with helpful people in the schools and community greatly reduces truancy.

For further information, contact:

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Early Head Start



*Truancy Mediation
Program*



Art by Bobbi, age 14



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Mentor, OH 44060



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