

What are curfew and truancy ?

Curfew...

... is the time a child must be at home and off the street.

Hennepin County Ordinance No. 16, Sub. A, B, or C, establishes the times youth are to be at home on weekdays and weekends. Curfews are set for youth ages 17 and under. The first ticket is \$25.00, the second is \$50.00, and a third ticket could result in a court date. Youth with a prior record are required to go to court when the first ticket is issued.

CURFEW HOURS

Under 12 years old

Sun. - Thurs.- Home by 9:00 PM

Fri. & Sat.- Home by 10:00 PM

12-14 years old

Sun. - Thurs.- Home by 10:00 PM

Fri. & Sat.- Home by 11:00 PM

15-17 years old

Sun. - Thurs.- Home by 11:00 PM

Fri. & Sat. - Home by 12:00 PM

- If a youth is in a public place or business after the above hours without a parent, guardian or other responsible adult, the police will give you a ticket.
- Business employees will ask youths to leave at curfew because it is against the law to allow them to stay.
- Minneapolis Police Officers are instructed to pick up youth out after curfew. The officers bring youth to the Curfew /Truancy Center.
- Staff talks to youth about the danger of being out late at night, determine if they are in danger at home, and find out about why they are in violation of curfew laws.
- Parents/guardians are contacted and are responsible for coming to the center to pick up their children.
- Parent and youth who need help with problems that come up during the assessment are referred to appropriate agencies.

Truancy...

... is if a child misses school without a lawful excuse.

A child is truant if the days are full or part days missed. The missed days do not have to be in a row.

Under Minnesota Statute 120.101, it is the responsibility of parents or guardians to make sure that their children learn the skills needed to become good citizens. A parent who contributes to a child's truancy from school can be charged with a misdemeanor.

Lawful Excuses:

- The child is sick
- Missed the bus
- It is a religious holiday

Unlawful Excuses:

- The child didn't feel like going
 - There is a family emergency
 - Overslept
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- If the truancy continues, the school can complete a truancy referral form and send it to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office for appropriate legal action.

What can you expect once you are in Juvenile Court ?

- Your child is scheduled for a court hearing. Before the hearing, a probation officer or social worker will talk with you and your child about your child's school attendance problems. He or she will discuss with you, orders that the court may make to help solve the truancy problem.

At this time, your child may also talk with an attorney who will represent your child at no cost to you.

- At the hearing, your child will be asked if they admit or deny that they have been truant. If your child admits to truancy, or is found to be truant at a trial, the Court will make orders to provide services to you and your child. These orders could include:

- Counseling for child or the parent/guardian
- Evaluation or treatment for mental health issues
- Participation in community service work
- Evaluation or treatment for chemical dependency
- Child ordered to pay fine and/or work duties squad
- Denial of driving privileges until the child's 18th birthday
- Parent ordered to deliver child to school every day
- Completion of a specialized school program

Tips that help!

1. Attend school. Education is important.
2. Get home early and get a good night's sleep.
3. Set two alarm clocks if necessary to make sure you get up.
4. Have a friend call you each morning if you have trouble getting up.
5. If you are having problems with peers, friends, parents, teachers, or others, talk about it with an adult you can trust.
6. Use medication or other counseling services if you need help.
7. Set goals for yourself to increase the number of days you are in school.
8. Talk about curfew and truancy with your kids.
9. Take your child to school and participate in school activities and functions.
10. Tell your kids you love them (Big kids too!).
11. Know where your kids go when they leave home.
12. Praise your kids when they get home on time and go to school on time.
13. Be a good example. Be a leader.

Resources

SCHOOL

(Counselors, Social Workers, Nurses)

YOUTH PROGRAMS

HOME-BASED SERVICES/FAMILY COUNSELING

HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMUNITY BASED SOCIAL SERVICES

What time is it?

This brochure is designed to help explain the importance of curfew and truancy.

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