

TRUANCY LAW

The Parental Responsibility Statute requires parents to enroll their child in school, assure that the child attends school regularly, and compel the child to properly conduct him or herself. Generally, each parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of any child required to attend school, who fails to have the child enrolled in school, who fails to send the child to school, or fails to require the child to regularly attend the school, or fails to compel the child to properly conduct himself or herself as a pupil in any public school in accordance with the written policy on school behavior adopted by the local board of education pursuant to this section shall upon conviction face a fine of up to \$100 and may also be sentenced to hard labor for up to 90 days in jail.

The absence of a child without the consent of the school he or she attends (or should attend) shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of this section. Code of Ala. 16-28-12(a).

Alabama law also provides that it shall be unlawful for any parent, legal guardian, legal custodian, or other person to cause a child to fail to attend school as required by compulsory school attendance law or to willfully aid, encourage, or cause any child to become or remain delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision. Code of Ala. 12-15-111 (a)(1), (a)(3).

A violation of this provision is a Class A misdemeanor and the parent/guardian/custodian faces up to one year in jail and up to a \$6,000 fine. In addition, students that are truant face school discipline as well as possible sanctions through juvenile court, such as court ordered appearances, probation, electronic monitoring and/or curfews, out-of-home placements, payment of court costs, and/or extensive counseling.

Each local Board of Education has adopted a written policy for its standards on school behavior. Such written policy is provided at the commencement of each academic year (Code of Student Conduct). By your signature, you acknowledge and agree that you have read and understood the written policy of your child's school as to attendance and appropriate school behavior.