



411 East Main Street
Benton, IL 62812
(618) 439-4316
(618) 435-2349 Fax

ABIGAIL D. DINN

STATE'S ATTORNEY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS



Jeffery D. Williams, Assistant
Kathryn A. Renik, Assistant
Heather Willis, Victim Services Coordinator
www.franklincountyil.gov

TO: Students, Parents, and Administration
FROM: Franklin County State's Attorney
DATE: 8/1/2022
RE: Truancy, Criminal Activity, and Violence in Franklin County Schools

I am writing this memo regarding two serious issues that need to be addressed in our schools: truancy and criminal activity/violence.

TRUANCY: Truancy is absence from school without permission. Truancy is a serious problem in Franklin County and the nation. Truancy issues affect not only the future of our schools, but also the future of our children. The law is clear; a child must attend school every day that school is in session unless the school has approved a valid excuse.

A parent or legal guardian has the legal responsibility to assure that their child complies with all attendance requirements. If a child is found to be a chronic truant, a juvenile court case could be filed against the student and a criminal case could be filed against the parent/guardian. If criminal charges are filed against the parent/guardian, that parent/guardian could be fined up to \$500.00 plus court costs and be sentenced up to 30 days in the Franklin County Jail.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/VIOLENCE: Criminal activity and violence, especially amongst juveniles, is an ongoing issue in Franklin County. Our law enforcement officers, school resource officers, and school administrators work together daily to ensure that incidents of criminal activity and violence in Franklin County schools are addressed swiftly and justly in order to keep our kids safe and mentally and emotionally prepared to participate and learn in school. Criminal activity and violence in our schools will not be taken lightly by my office.

As we quickly approach a new school year, I wish you and your children a safe and successful year! Remember that regular attendance is absolutely crucial to a child's ability to learn and comprehend. Also, our schools should provide, above all, a safe and appropriate environment that fosters learning, developing social skills, and a creating a lifetime of great memories for our children to recall and share for years to come. Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abigail Dinn".

Abigail Dinn
Franklin County State's Attorney