

COTTONWOOD COUNTY
MEDIATION MEETING

- GOAL:
- (a) To identify reasons why the student is truant.
 - (b) To develop a multi-disciplinary plan to resolve the truancy problem.
 - (c) To refer the truant student to court for adjudication should the plan fail.

The Mediation Team may consist of school personnel, an agent from the county probation department, a social service staff person, truant student and parent. The Mediation Meeting is chaired and coordinated by the Office of the County Attorney.

The Mediation Team shall assess the reasons why the child has been truant, what steps can be taken to address the truancy problem, and whether the child shall appear in Court.

1. If it is determined the child should appear in Court, upon the seventh unexcused absence, the County Attorney will file a Truancy Petition and a court date will be set. The County Attorney will document any written supporting documentation as to the reason mediation was not appropriate.
2. If the child is considered for mediation. The Mediation Team will assess the student's potential for diversion by:
 - a. Discussing the Social History Questionnaire during the meeting.
 - b. Reviewing any assessments and school data provided at or before the meeting.
 - c. The Mediation Team will develop a plan to keep the child from becoming a Child in Need of Protection or Services. The Mediation Team will review with the Student, his/her legal rights and responsibilities under the CHIPS statute. The Mediation Team will assure all Releases of Information have been signed.