

## MONROE COUNTY GENERAL SESSIONS COURT

General Sessions, Juvenile, Probate Jurisdiction

**Dwaine B. Thomas, Judge**

Beverly Powell, Administrative Assistant  
Shaunna Finney, Director of Juvenile Court Services  
Mikel Black, Youth Services Officer

R. Beecher Witt Judicial Building  
403 Tellico Street  
Madisonville, TN 37354  
General Sessions: (423) 442-1382  
Juvenile: (423) 420-9106  
Fax: (423) 442-6785

RE: School Attendance

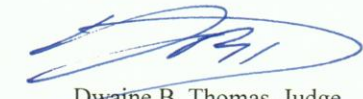
Dear Parent:

As Juvenile Court Judge for Monroe County, I have the responsibility of enforcing the Tennessee Compulsory School Attendance Law. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously. In the age we live, a basic education, as mandated by the Tennessee Legislature, is critical in the development of children into productive members of our county. It is undeniable that if a child is not present for school, no matter the extent of the effort and resources expended for the child's education, the child will not learn or progress.

Tennessee Law requires a child to be present for school, on time, and prepared to participate until such time as they graduate or are relieved from the obligation by action of the Superintendent of Schools. Failure of a parent or guardian to require a child to attend schools can be punished by a fine, jail time, or both. The child may ultimately be placed into State Custody if the child's best interests require it. The Monroe County Juvenile Court works closely with school officials and the Department of Children's Services on monitoring and insuring that every child required to attend school does so. Disregard of or inaction relating to Truancy will not be tolerated. Our children deserve this state mandated education.

Please co-operate with school officials as they strive to assist you with issues regarding Truancy. The Monroe County and Sweetwater City Schools have dedicated professionals providing a bright future for our children. Should the issue not be resolved before the matter is brought to the Court's attention, understand that this is a serious matter that directly impacts the future welfare of our county. Violations of the Compulsory School Attendance Law will be given the highest priority and the full measure of the law will be used to compel attendance.

Sincerely,



Dwaine B. Thomas, Judge  
Monroe County Juvenile and  
General Sessions Court