

Belinda Hill  
First Assistant



Criminal Justice Center  
1201 Franklin, Suite 600  
Houston, Texas 77002-1901

**HARRIS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
DEVON ANDERSON

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s):

The Harris County District Attorney's Office and the Pasadena Independent School District are partners in the **Harris County Stay In School Program(SIS)** during the 2014-2015 school year. School attendance is a high priority for my office and for your district. The SIS program is designed to increase school attendance, thus helping children succeed in school and life; a goal for which all concerned parents strive.

This letter is to inform you of the law and district policies regarding failure to attend school. It is important that all parents and guardians be aware of the consequences of unexcused absences from school. Under Texas Law unexcused absences can be a criminal offense and both parents and students may be charged.

If your child has three (3) unexcused absences from school, one warning letter will be sent to you and one will be hand-delivered to your child in school. You will then be summoned immediately to a conference at the school. The purpose of the conference will be to discuss and solve your child's attendance problem before it is necessary to file criminal charges on your child and/or you. If, however, your child continues to have additional unexcused absences, the school will file a criminal case in a Justice of the Peace Court and you and your child will have to go to court and respond to the charges. Additionally, your child will not be allowed any additional absences and will be required to submit to a social services evaluation. The social services evaluation may result in you being referred to other social services programs. If your child does not follow the rules of the program, additional conditions will be added, such as, attendance at a truancy camp and completion of community service hours. If your child fails to complete these requirements additional charges will be filed against your child in a Harris County Juvenile District Court.

Each parent is also subject to very large fines.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to explain to your child how to avoid the troubles described above by making sure they attend school every day in order to receive the best education possible.

  
Devon Anderson

Telephone (713) 755-5800

Facismile (713) 755-6865