

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT		
TRUANCY INTERDICTION		
POLICY AND PROCEDURE 3.3.5		
Effective Date : 06/24/09	Accreditation Standards: CALEA 44.1.1 CFA	Review Date: 06/01/2014

CONTENTS

- 1. Administration**
- 2. General Procedures**
- 3. Glossary**

PURPOSE: To outline the Department's procedures for Truancy Interdiction.

SCOPE: This policy and procedure applies to all personnel.

REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY: Patrol Operations Bureau

POLICY: The Department is committed to Truancy Interdiction as a means of diverting students ages 7 through 17 who are absent from school without authorization from delinquency opportunity and influence by returning them to the educational environment, by involving their parents/guardians, and by providing appropriate referrals when necessary.

PROCEDURES

1. ADMINISTRATION

- a. Truancy Interdiction functions as an ongoing partnership between the police and the schools in making truancy difficult for school age children.
- b. Truancy Interdiction will be a functional responsibility of the Department, primarily Patrol Operations. The Community Involvement Unit (CIU) will provide follow-up functions as necessary.
- c. The primary purpose of Truancy Interdiction will be to locate truants and return them to the school system with the involvement of their parents or guardians. The program will also function to educate and hold responsible those parents or guardians who refuse to comply with state law regarding the school attendance of their children.

2. GENERAL PROCEDURES

- a. Officers will attempt to locate and detain truants who are between the ages of 7 and 17 and who are absent from school without authorization.
- b. When an officer contacts a suspected truant during school hours, the officer will verify that student's status via the appropriate school. If the student is determined to be truant, he or she will be transported to the school. The officer will interview the truant and complete the appropriate forms. Officers will complete a Field Interview entry to document encounters with truants.
- c. The officer will notify the truant's school of the truant's status.
- d. The officer will check for outstanding warrants or pick-up orders for the truant. Those with warrants will be transported to the jail or Juvenile Assessment Center as appropriate.
- e. The Crime Analyst will review truant pick-ups to identify repeat offenders. CIU will be notified of those repeat offenders.

- f. A CIU officer will contact repeat truant's parent(s) or guardian(s). The parent or guardian will be educated on the state's compulsory attendance laws and their responsibility to comply with those laws.
- g. The CIU officer will assist in locating appropriate counseling or other referrals for parents/guardians who request such assistance or when such referral is needed.
- h. The CIU officer will cooperate and coordinate with school authorities to prosecute parents or guardians who refuse to comply with Florida state law.
- i. Nothing in this directive is intended to prohibit or discourage an officer from arresting a truant for a criminal violation when probable cause exists for such an arrest.

3. GLOSSARY

Truant: A person of age 7 through 17 who is absent from school without proper authorization or a person in the same age group who is in a public place during school hours while that person is suspended from school.

INDEX AS:

- TRUANCY INTERDICTION

RESPONSIBILITY INDEX:

- CHIEF OF POLICE
- CIU SUPERVISOR
- PATROL OPERATIONS

DRAFTED: SDD / 6-24-09 FILED: 3.3.5.pdf

APPROVED:



Stephen J. Stepp
Chief of Police

06/25/2009

Date