

# Community Legal Aid

A non-profit law firm serving the legal needs of low-income individuals and families in central northeast Ohio



[www.communitylegalaid.org](http://www.communitylegalaid.org)

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## Truancy: What to Do if Your Child is Absent Due to a Medical Condition

School-aged children are required to attend school or receive appropriate school instruction. However, there are ‘**legitimate excuses**’ for failure to attend that are defined by law.

Under Ohio law “**chronic truant**” means any child of school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for:

- seven or more consecutive school days,
- ten or more school days in one school month, or
- fifteen or more school days in a school year.

A “**legitimate excuse for absence**” means that the child is excused from attendance at school for the specific reasons below:

1. the child's physical condition does not permit attendance at school. This must be certified in writing by a licensed physician; or
2. the child’s mental condition does not permit attendance at school. This must be certified in writing by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist, a licensed school psychologist or a certificated school psychologist;
3. and provision is made for the appropriate instruction of the child

If your child meets the definition of a ‘**child with a disability**’ free appropriate education should be provided by the public school system. Appropriate education should be determined by the needs of your child. If you have not done so, you should contact the principal of your child’s school to request appropriate education for your child.

*This article is meant to give you general information and not to give you specific legal advice. Prepared by Community Legal Aid Services, Inc. Updated April 2012.*

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