

CHAPTER 172

(HB 72)

AN ACT relating to habitual truancy.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 159.150 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any *student who has attained the age of six (6) years, but has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday,*~~{child}~~ who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.
- (2) *Any student enrolled in a public school who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, but has not reached his or her twenty-first birthday, who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy without valid excuse on three (3) or more days, is a truant.*
- (3) Any *student*~~{child}~~ who has been reported as a truant *two (2)*~~{three (3)}~~ or more times is an habitual truant.~~[Being absent for less than half of a school day shall be regarded as being tardy.]~~ A local board of education may adopt reasonable policies that:
 - (a)~~{(1)}~~ Require students to comply with compulsory attendance laws;
 - (b)~~{(2)}~~ Require truants and habitual truants to make up unexcused absences; and
 - (c)~~{(3)}~~ Impose sanctions for noncompliance.

Section 2. KRS 159.990 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) Any parent, guardian, or custodian who intentionally fails to comply with the requirements of KRS 159.010 to 159.170, *except as provided in subsection (5) of this section*, shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first offense, and two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for the second offense. Each subsequent offense shall be classified as a Class B misdemeanor. A new offense shall not be constituted until any previous offense has been finally adjudicated. The court trying the case may suspend enforcement of the fine if the child is immediately placed in attendance at a school, and may finally remit the fine if the attendance continues regularly for the full school term. School attendance may be proved by an attested certificate of the principal or teacher in charge of the school.
- (2) Any principal, teacher, director of pupil personnel, assistant director of pupil personnel, or other school officer who intentionally fails to comply with the provisions of KRS 159.010 to 159.250, or of KRS 160.330 shall be fined not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25) nor more than fifty dollars (\$50). Upon conviction under this subsection, a director of pupil personnel or assistant director of pupil personnel shall be removed from office and have his certificate revoked, and a principal, teacher, or other school officer may have his certificate revoked.
- (3) Any person, other than those persons mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, who fails to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter relating to compulsory attendance, or who violates any of the provisions of KRS 159.130, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200), or imprisoned in the county jail for not more than sixty (60) days, or both.
- (4) Any person who violates any of the provisions of KRS 159.270 shall be liable to a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) and shall be liable to the punishment prescribed by law for

the crime of false swearing. If he is an officer, he shall be removed from office; and if he is a director of pupil personnel, his certificate shall be revoked.

(5) *Any of the following who intentionally fails to comply with the requirements of Section 1 of this Act shall be fined one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first offense and two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for each subsequent offense:*

(a) *A student enrolled in a public school who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, but who has not yet reached his or her twenty-first birthday, for whom a guardian has not been appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, whether or not that student is identified as an exceptional child or youth under KRS 157.200(1)(a) to (m);*

(b) *A parent, guardian, or custodian of a student enrolled in a public school who has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday; or*

(c) *A guardian appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction of a student who is enrolled in a public school, has been identified as an exceptional child or youth under KRS 157.200(1)(a) to (m), and has attained the age of eighteen (18) years, but who has not yet reached his or her twenty-first birthday.*

Any person described in paragraph (a), (b), or (c) of this subsection shall be informed by personnel of the local school district that a public school student who has not reached his or her twenty-first birthday shall be subject to truancy laws.

(6) All fines imposed and all sums required to be paid as penalties under this section shall, after payment of the costs of prosecution and recovery thereof, be paid into the treasury of the district board of education and become a part of the school fund of the district.

Section 3. KRS 600.020 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS Chapters 600 to 645, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Abused or neglected child" means a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when his parent, guardian, or other person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child:

(a) Inflicts or allows to be inflicted upon the child physical or emotional injury as defined in this section by other than accidental means;

(b) Creates or allows to be created a risk of physical or emotional injury as defined in this section to the child by other than accidental means;

(c) Engages in a pattern of conduct that renders the parent incapable of caring for the immediate and ongoing needs of the child including, but not limited to, parental incapacity due to alcohol and other drug abuse as defined in KRS 222.005;

(d) Continuously or repeatedly fails or refuses to provide essential parental care and protection for the child, considering the age of the child;

(e) Commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or prostitution upon the child;

(f) Creates or allows to be created a risk that an act of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, or prostitution will be committed upon the child;

(g) Abandons or exploits the child; or

- (h) Does not provide the child with adequate care, supervision, food, clothing, shelter, and education or medical care necessary for the child's well-being. A parent or other person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child legitimately practicing the person's religious beliefs shall not be considered a negligent parent solely because of failure to provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone. This exception shall not preclude a court from ordering necessary medical services for a child; or
 - (i) Fails to make sufficient progress toward identified goals as set forth in the court-approved case plan to allow for the safe return of the child to the parent that results in the child remaining committed to the cabinet and remaining in foster care for fifteen (15) of the most recent twenty-two (22) months;
- (2) "Aggravated circumstances" means the existence of one (1) or more of the following conditions:
- (a) The parent has not attempted or has not had contact with the child for a period of not less than ninety (90) days;
 - (b) The parent is incarcerated and will be unavailable to care for the child for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the child's entry into foster care and there is no appropriate relative placement available during this period of time;
 - (c) The parent has sexually abused the child and has refused available treatment;
 - (d) The parent has been found by the cabinet to have engaged in abuse of the child that required removal from the parent's home two (2) or more times in the past two (2) years; or
 - (e) The parent has caused the child serious physical injury;
- (3) "Beyond the control of parents" means a child who has repeatedly failed to follow the reasonable directives of his or her parents, legal guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision other than a state agency, which behavior results in danger to the child or others, and which behavior does not constitute behavior that would warrant the filing of a petition under KRS Chapter 645;
- (4) "Beyond the control of school" means any child who has been found by the court to have repeatedly violated the lawful regulations for the government of the school as provided in KRS 158.150, and as documented in writing by the school as a part of the school's petition or as an attachment to the school's petition. The petition or attachment shall describe the student's behavior and all intervention strategies attempted by the school;
- (5) "Boarding home" means a privately owned and operated home for the boarding and lodging of individuals which is approved by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the cabinet for the placement of children committed to the department or the cabinet;
- (6) "Cabinet" means the Cabinet for Families and Children;
- (7) "Certified juvenile facility staff" means individuals who meet the qualifications of, and who have completed a course of education and training in juvenile detention developed and approved by, the Department of Juvenile Justice after consultation with other appropriate state agencies;

- (8) "Child" means any person who has not reached his eighteenth birthday, unless otherwise provided;
- (9) "Child-caring facility" means any facility or group home other than a state facility, Department of Juvenile Justice contract facility or group home, or one certified by an appropriate agency as operated primarily for educational or medical purposes, providing residential care on a twenty-four (24) hour basis to children not related by blood, adoption, or marriage to the person maintaining the facility;
- (10) "Child-placing agency" means any agency, other than a state agency, which supervises the placement of children in foster family homes or child-caring facilities or which places children for adoption;
- (11) "Clinical treatment facility" means a facility with more than eight (8) beds designated by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the cabinet for the treatment of mentally ill children. The treatment program of such facilities shall be supervised by a qualified mental health professional;
- (12) "Commitment" means an order of the court which places a child under the custodial control or supervision of the Cabinet for Families and Children, Department of Juvenile Justice, or another facility or agency until the child attains the age of eighteen (18) unless the commitment is discharged under KRS Chapter 605 or the committing court terminates or extends the order;
- (13) "Community-based facility" means any nonsecure, homelike facility licensed, operated, or permitted to operate by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the cabinet, which is located within a reasonable proximity of the child's family and home community, which affords the child the opportunity, if a Kentucky resident, to continue family and community contact;
- (14) "Complaint" means a verified statement setting forth allegations in regard to the child which contain sufficient facts for the formulation of a subsequent petition;
- (15) "Court" means the juvenile session of District Court unless a statute specifies the adult session of District Court or the Circuit Court;
- (16) "Court-designated worker" means that organization or individual delegated by the Administrative Office of the Courts for the purposes of placing children in alternative placements prior to arraignment, conducting preliminary investigations, and formulating, entering into, and supervising diversion agreements and performing such other functions as authorized by law or court order;
- (17) "Deadly weapon" has the same meaning as it does in KRS 500.080;
- (18) "Department" means the Department for Community Based Services;
- (19) "Dependent child" means any child, other than an abused or neglected child, who is under improper care, custody, control, or guardianship that is not due to an intentional act of the parent, guardian, or person exercising custodial control or supervision of the child;
- (20) "Detention" means the safe and temporary custody of a juvenile who is accused of conduct subject to the jurisdiction of the court who requires a restricted environment for his or her own or the community's protection;

- (21) "Detention hearing" means a hearing held by a judge or trial commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, of the start of any period of detention prior to adjudication;
- (22) "Diversion agreement" means an agreement entered into between a court-designated worker and a child charged with the commission of offenses set forth in KRS Chapters 630 and 635, the purpose of which is to serve the best interest of the child and to provide redress for those offenses without court action and without the creation of a formal court record;
- (23) "Emergency shelter" is a group home, private residence, foster home, or similar homelike facility which provides temporary or emergency care of children and adequate staff and services consistent with the needs of each child;
- (24) "Emotional injury" means an injury to the mental or psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by a substantial and observable impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to his age, development, culture, and environment as testified to by a qualified mental health professional;
- (25) "Firearm" shall have the same meaning as in KRS 237.060 and 527.010;
- (26) "Foster family home" means a private home in which children are placed for foster family care under supervision of the cabinet or a licensed child-placing agency;
- (27) "Habitual runaway" means any child who has been found by the court to have been absent from his place of lawful residence without the permission of his custodian for at least three (3) days during a one (1) year period;
- (28) "Habitual truant" means any child who has been found by the court to have been reported as a truant as defined in KRS 159.150(1) *two (2)*~~three (3)~~ or more times during a one (1) year period;
- (29) "Hospital" means, except for purposes of KRS Chapter 645, a licensed private or public facility, health care facility, or part thereof, which is approved by the cabinet to treat children;
- (30) "Independent living" means those activities necessary to assist a committed child to establish independent living arrangements;
- (31) "Informal adjustment" means an agreement reached among the parties, with consultation, but not the consent, of the victim of the crime or other persons specified in KRS 610.070 if the victim chooses not to or is unable to participate, after a petition has been filed, which is approved by the court, that the best interest of the child would be served without formal adjudication and disposition;
- (32) "Intentionally" means, with respect to a result or to conduct described by a statute which defines an offense, that the actor's conscious objective is to cause that result or to engage in that conduct;
- (33) "Intermittent holding facility" means a physically secure setting, which is entirely separated from sight and sound from all other portions of a jail containing adult prisoners, in which a child accused of a public offense may be detained for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays prior to a detention hearing as provided for in KRS 610.265, and in which children are supervised and observed on a regular basis by certified juvenile facility staff;

- (34) "Juvenile holding facility" means a physically secure facility, approved by the Department of Juvenile Justice, which is an entirely separate portion or wing of a building containing an adult jail, which provides total sight and sound separation between juvenile and adult facility spatial areas and which is staffed by sufficient certified juvenile facility staff to provide twenty-four (24) hours per day supervision;
- (35) "Least restrictive alternative" means, except for purposes of KRS Chapter 645, that the program developed on the child's behalf is no more harsh, hazardous, or intrusive than necessary; or involves no restrictions on physical movements nor requirements for residential care except as reasonably necessary for the protection of the child from physical injury; or protection of the community, and is conducted at the suitable available facility closest to the child's place of residence;
- (36) "Motor vehicle offense" means any violation of the nonfelony provisions of KRS Chapters 186, 189, or 189A, KRS 177.300, 304.39-110, or 304.39-117;
- (37) "Near fatality" means an injury that, as certified by a physician, places a child in serious or critical condition;
- (38) "Needs of the child" means necessary food, clothing, health, shelter, and education;
- (39) "Nonsecure facility" means a facility which provides its residents access to the surrounding community and which does not rely primarily on the use of physically restricting construction and hardware to restrict freedom;
- (40) "Nonsecure setting" means a nonsecure facility or a residential home, including a child's own home, where a child may be temporarily placed pending further court action. Children before the court in a county that is served by a state operated secure detention facility, who are in the detention custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice, and who are placed in a nonsecure alternative by the Department of Juvenile Justice, shall be supervised by the Department of Juvenile Justice;
- (41) "Parent" means the biological or adoptive mother or father of a child;
- (42) "Person exercising custodial control or supervision" means a person or agency that has assumed the role and responsibility of a parent or guardian for the child, but that does not necessarily have legal custody of the child;
- (43) "Petition" means a verified statement, setting forth allegations in regard to the child, which initiates formal court involvement in the child's case;
- (44) "Physical injury" means substantial physical pain or any impairment of physical condition;
- (45) "Physically secure facility" means a facility that relies primarily on the use of construction and hardware such as locks, bars, and fences to restrict freedom;
- (46) "Public offense action" means an action, excluding contempt, brought in the interest of a child who is accused of committing an offense under KRS Chapter 527 or a public offense which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime, whether the same is a felony, misdemeanor, or violation, other than an action alleging that a child sixteen (16) years of age or older has committed a motor vehicle offense;
- (47) "Qualified mental health professional" means:

- (a) A physician licensed under the laws of Kentucky to practice medicine or osteopathy, or a medical officer of the government of the United States while engaged in the performance of official duties;
 - (b) A psychiatrist licensed under the laws of Kentucky to practice medicine or osteopathy, or a medical officer of the government of the United States while engaged in the practice of official duties, and who is certified or eligible to apply for certification by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, Inc.;
 - (c) A psychologist with the health service provider designation, a psychological practitioner, a certified psychologist, or a psychological associate licensed under the provisions of KRS Chapter 319;
 - (d) A licensed registered nurse with a master's degree in psychiatric nursing from an accredited institution and two (2) years of clinical experience with mentally ill persons, or a licensed registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in nursing from an accredited institution who is certified as a psychiatric and mental health nurse by the American Nurses Association and who has three (3) years of inpatient or outpatient clinical experience in psychiatric nursing and who is currently employed by a hospital or forensic psychiatric facility licensed by the Commonwealth or a psychiatric unit of a general hospital or a regional comprehensive care center;
 - (e) A licensed clinical social worker licensed under the provisions of KRS 335.100, or a certified social worker licensed under the provisions of KRS 335.080 with three (3) years of inpatient or outpatient clinical experience in psychiatric social work and currently employed by a hospital or forensic psychiatric facility licensed by the Commonwealth or a psychiatric unit of a general hospital or a regional comprehensive care center;
 - (f) A marriage and family therapist licensed under the provisions of KRS 335.300 to 335.399 with three (3) years of inpatient or outpatient clinical experience in psychiatric mental health practice and currently employed by a hospital or forensic psychiatric facility licensed by the Commonwealth, a psychiatric unit of a general hospital, or a regional comprehensive care center; or
 - (g) A professional counselor credentialed under the provisions of KRS 335.500 to 335.599 with three (3) years of inpatient or outpatient clinical experience in psychiatric mental health practice and currently employed by a hospital or forensic facility licensed by the Commonwealth, a psychiatric unit of a general hospital, or a regional comprehensive care center;
- (48) "Residential treatment facility" means a facility or group home with more than eight (8) beds designated by the Department of Juvenile Justice or the cabinet for the treatment of children;
- (49) "Retain in custody" means, after a child has been taken into custody, the continued holding of the child by a peace officer for a period of time not to exceed twelve (12) hours when authorized by the court or the court-designated worker for the purpose of making preliminary inquiries;
- (50) "School personnel" means those certified persons under the supervision of the local public or private education agency;
- (51) "Secretary" means the secretary of the Cabinet for Families and Children;

- (52) "Secure juvenile detention facility" means any physically secure facility used for the secure detention of children other than any facility in which adult prisoners are confined;
- (53) "Serious physical injury" means physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious and prolonged disfigurement, prolonged impairment of health, or prolonged loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ;
- (54) "Sexual abuse" includes, but is not necessarily limited to, any contacts or interactions in which the parent, guardian, or other person having custodial control or supervision of the child or responsibility for his welfare, uses or allows, permits, or encourages the use of the child for the purposes of the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or another person;
- (55) "Sexual exploitation" includes, but is not limited to, a situation in which a parent, guardian, or other person having custodial control or supervision of a child or responsible for his welfare, allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in an act which constitutes prostitution under Kentucky law; or a parent, guardian, or other person having custodial control or supervision of a child or responsible for his welfare, allows, permits, or encourages the child to engage in an act of obscene or pornographic photographing, filming, or depicting of a child as provided for under Kentucky law;
- (56) "Social service worker" means any employee of the cabinet or any private agency designated as such by the secretary of the cabinet or a social worker employed by a county or city who has been approved by the cabinet to provide, under its supervision, services to families and children;
- (57) "Staff secure facility for residential treatment" means any setting which assures that all entrances and exits are under the exclusive control of the facility staff, and in which a child may reside for the purpose of receiving treatment;
- (58) "Status offense action" is any action brought in the interest of a child who is accused of committing acts, which if committed by an adult, would not be a crime. Such behavior shall not be considered criminal or delinquent and such children shall be termed status offenders. Status offenses shall not include violations of state or local ordinances which may apply to children such as a violation of curfew or possession of alcoholic beverages;
- (59) "Take into custody" means the procedure by which a peace officer or other authorized person initially assumes custody of a child. A child may be taken into custody for a period of time not to exceed two (2) hours;
- (60) "Valid court order" means a court order issued by a judge to a child alleged or found to be a status offender:
- (a) Who was brought before the court and made subject to the order;
 - (b) Whose future conduct was regulated by the order;
 - (c) Who was given written and verbal warning of the consequences of the violation of the order at the time the order was issued and whose attorney or parent or legal guardian was also provided with a written notice of the consequences of violation of the order, which notification is reflected in the record of the court proceedings; and
 - (d) Who received, before the issuance of the order, the full due process rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

- (61) "Violation" means any offense, other than a traffic infraction, for which a sentence of a fine only can be imposed;
- (62) "Youth alternative center" means a nonsecure facility, approved by the Department of Juvenile Justice, for the detention of juveniles, both prior to adjudication and after adjudication, which meets the criteria specified in KRS 15A.320; and
- (63) "Youthful offender" means any person regardless of age, transferred to Circuit Court under the provisions of KRS Chapter 635 or 640 and who is subsequently convicted in Circuit Court.

Approved March 18, 2005.