



CIRCUIT COURT
SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

IRENE H. SULLIVAN
CIRCUIT JUDGE

March 4, 2010

JERRI EVANS
JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
14250-49TH STREET NORTH
CLEARWATER, FLORIDA 33762
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Dear Potential Truancy Strike Force Member*:

Five years ago the schools, courts and Family Resources met to explore innovative ways to reduce truancy among Pinellas County schools. The successful result was a generous grant from the Juvenile Welfare Board which funded a truancy magistrate program in the middle schools, a new Southside truancy interdiction center and individual and family counseling. Ever since, we have been working very hard in truancy court and with our Magistrates, Carmen Follis and Sharon Gallagher, to reduce truancy, prevent dropouts, prevent school suspensions and enhance school engagement.

We would like to take our efforts to a new level by creating a Truancy Strike Force which would expand upon our success and engage the entire business, government and social and faith based communities of Pinellas County in this important effort. We think that you would be a valuable member of that Truancy Strike Force and we look forward to your input, experience and ideas.

You are invited to a brief exploratory meeting for the development of the Truancy Strike Force on April 1, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. to be held in the Third Floor Judicial Conference Room located at the Criminal Justice Center, 14250 – 49 Street North, Clearwater, Florida. You have been selected for your efforts/interest in the youth in our area. This initial meeting is key as it will set the parameters of the strike force's endeavors. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Please RSVP your attendance availability no later than March 30, 2010.

Increasing school attendance and engagement increases graduation rates, reduces delinquency and improves the health of children and families. Nothing could be more important. We look forward to your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Irene H. Sullivan

Carmen Follis
Truancy Magistrate

*Education and youth leaders throughout the country have been invited to attend this meeting.
**Meeting will be open to the public and conducted under Sunshine Law requirements.