

**EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT:  
ARAPAHOE, DOUGLAS, ELBERT and  
LINCOLN COUNTIES, COLORADO**

Arapahoe County Justice Center  
7325 South Potomac Street  
Centennial, Colorado 80112

Littleton County Courthouse  
1790 West Littleton Boulevard  
Littleton, Colorado 80120

Douglas County Courthouse  
4000 Justice Way, #2009  
Castle Rock, Colorado 80109

Elbert County Courthouse  
PO Box 232, 751 Ute Street  
Kiowa, Colorado 80117

Lincoln County Courthouse  
PO Box 128, 103 Third Avenue  
Hugo, Colorado 80821

**COURT USE ONLY**

**Chief Judge Order  
(CJO 16-04)**

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**Division: 201**

**CHIEF JUDGE ORDER ADOPTING A TRUANCY DETENTION  
REDUCTION POLICY AND PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SENATE  
BILL 15-184 (CODIFIED AT SECTION 13-5-145, C.R.S. (2015))**

Pursuant to the authority granted to chief judges of the judicial districts of the State of Colorado by Chief Justice Directive 95-01, “Authority and Responsibility of Chief Judges,” and pursuant to Senate Bill 15-184 (codified at section 13-5-145, C.R.S. (2015), “Truancy Detention Reduction Policy—Legislative Declaration”), the undersigned, in his capacity as Chief Judge, enters this Order adopting the attached Eighteenth Judicial District’s Truancy Detention Reduction Policy and Plan.

In July 2014, the Eighteenth Judicial District started examining the use of detention sentences for truancy court students. Four months later, the Eighteenth Judicial District launched a truancy problem-solving court, which was made

possible by a grant from the Division of Criminal Justice. This problem-solving court has assisted the judicial officers in this judicial district avoid the use of detention sentences for truancy court students. According to data provided by Senate Bill 94 and the Eighteenth Judicial District Juvenile Assessment Center, the Eighteenth Judicial District has not sentenced a truancy student to detention during the past eighteen months.

Additionally, this judicial district recently revamped its procedures related to truancy warrants in order to attempt to keep most truancy students from being held in detention after they are arrested on a warrant. The new “tiered warrant” system has proven successful.

None of the changes in this judicial district’s truancy practices have negatively impacted the effectiveness of Truancy Court. To the contrary, the current truancy practices have proven more effective than the detention practices of the past.

Pursuant to Senate Bill 15-184, as codified at section 13-5-145, the Court convened multiple meetings with the community stakeholders, including most of the stakeholders listed in section 13-5-145(2) and other stakeholders, to discuss the sustained reduction of the use of detention for truancy students. Feedback from parents of students with Truancy Court experience was considered during the meetings. The Court and a clear majority of the other stakeholders (hereinafter collectively “the stakeholders”), determined that this judicial district should continue to undertake efforts to reduce detention in truancy cases. To that end, the stakeholders drafted a policy and plan that seeks alternatives to the use of detention as a sanction in truancy. Among other things, the proposal incorporates the changes that have recently been implemented in this judicial district. *See* Eighteenth Judicial District’s Truancy Detention Reduction Policy and Plan (attached). In creating this policy and plan, the stakeholders considered many factors, including those listed in section 13-5-145(3).

This judicial district’s Truancy Court is more effective today than it has been in the past, showing that courts can, and should, generally handle truancy cases without resorting to detention. Using a creative and resourceful problem-solving approach to truancy has afforded the Eighteenth Judicial District the opportunity to positively impact the lives of many juveniles and their families. Given the effectiveness of the current practices, the Court endorses the attached policy and plan without reservation. Based on the data available, the Court concludes that the wisest course of action in truancy is a community outreach approach that fosters partnerships with other organizations, attempts to establish closer working relationships between schools, students, and their families, and focuses on making available resources accessible to the students and their families.

While some residual reluctance to the attached policy and plan may remain, the Court is steadfastly committed to it because the Court is convinced that it is the most effective approach to truancy. Accordingly, in compliance with Senate Bill 15-184, as codified at section 13-5-145, the Court adopts the attached Truancy Detention Reduction Policy and Plan as the Eighteenth Judicial District's policy and plan.

Dated this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February of 2016.

BY THE COURT:



Carlos A. Samour, Jr.

Chief Judge

Eighteenth Judicial District