

Memorandum of Understanding for Rutland County Truancy Project

The Rutland Family Division, a division of the Vermont Superior Court, and the Rutland City Public Schools are desirous of establishing a Truancy Project, whereby appropriate representatives of the Schools will be invited to attend certain truancy hearings involving its students with a goal of safely returning the students to regular attendance in appropriate educational programs in a more timely manner. Attendance by the school representatives shall be voluntary and based upon availability. The court hearings will be juvenile proceedings, therefore, all persons attending are subject to the provisions of 33 V.S.A. § 5110:

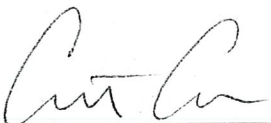
(a) Hearings under the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters shall be conducted by the court without a jury and shall be confidential.

(b) The general public shall be excluded from hearings under the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters, and only the parties, their counsel, witnesses, persons accompanying a party for his or her assistance, and such other persons as the court finds to have a proper interest in the case or in the work of the court, including a foster parent or a representative of a residential program where the child resides, may be admitted by the court. An individual without party status seeking inclusion in the hearing in accordance with this subsection may petition the court for admittance by filing a request with the clerk of the court. This subsection shall not prohibit a victim's exercise of his or her rights under sections 5233 and 5234 of this title, and as otherwise provided by law.

(c) There shall be no publicity given by any person to any proceedings under the authority of the juvenile judicial proceedings chapters except with the consent of the child, the child's guardian ad litem, and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian. A person who violates this provision may be subject to contempt proceedings pursuant to Rule 16 of the Vermont Rules for Family Proceedings.

For these hearings the school officials are "other persons as the court finds to have a proper interest in the case or the work of the court" pursuant to 33 VSA § 5110(b), and are therefore allowed to attend and participate.

In addition, any information provided by a school official at the hearings at the request of the court, shall be considered as information provided as a result of a court order.



Rutland Family Division

10/17/19

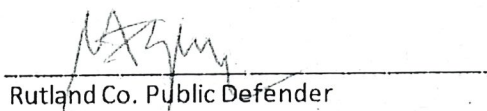


Rutland City Public Schools



Rutland Co. State's Attorney

10/21/19



Rutland Co. Public Defender