

CHAPTER 13
STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE TRIBAL LAW
TRUANCY

Section 13.1 Purpose

The purpose of this code is to require the regular attendance at school of all school-age children living on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation and all tribal children who live off of the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation and attend school within the Bowler School District and the Shawano/Gresham School District.

Section 13.2 Authority

This Code is enacted pursuant to Article VII, Section 1 (f) of the Constitution of the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

Section 13.3 Abrogation and Greater Restrictions

When this code imposes greater restrictions than those contained in other tribal ordinances, codes, or resolutions, the provisions of this code shall govern.

Section 13.4 Interpretation

In its interpretation and application the provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements and shall be liberally construed in favor of the Tribe and shall not be deemed as a limitation upon or a repeal of any other tribal power or authority. The Tribe by adoption of this code does not waive its sovereign immunity in any respect.

Section 13.5 Applicability

This code shall apply to all Tribal children who reside on the reservation or any child who lives with a tribal member and resides on the reservation.

Section 13.6 Definitions

For the purpose of this code the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed below:

(A) "Adult" means any person 18 years of age or older who is not enrolled in the Bowler or Shawano/Gresham School Districts.

(B) "Child" means any person who is less than 18 years of age.

(C) “Member” means a person enrolled with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Band of Mohicans.

(D) “Reservation” means the area within the boundaries of the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation, which includes the entire townships of Bartelme and Red Springs.

(E) “School” means the Bowler Public School or the Shawano/Gresham Public School and includes any alternative sites where instruction may occur.

(F) “School Attendance” means physical presence of a child in school, and includes attending scheduled classes during such hours and on such days as determined by the school or, for students enrolled in alternative education programs, attendance at the place and during hours scheduled by the school for the student, unless excused from such attendance by school policy or state law.

(G) “School Attendance Policy” means the current policy for school attendance duly adopted by the appropriate school board.

(H) “Tribal Child” means a child who is either an enrolled member of the Tribe, or is eligible for enrollment in the Tribe.

(I) “Tribal Court” means the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Court.

(J) “Truancy” means any absence by any child of part or all of one or more days from school during which the school attendance officer, or his agent, has not been notified of the excused absence by the person having the absent pupil under his or her control during non-school hours. “Truancy” also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of the state and tribe’s attendance laws. (Wis. Stat. Sec.118.15 and Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Law Chapter 13.7.)

(K) “Habitual Truancy” means a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse under Wis. Stat. Sec 118.15 for all or part of 5 or more days on which school is held during a semester.

(L) “Student” means one who attends school.

(M) “Tribe” means the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans.

(N) “School-age child” means a child age 6 to 18.

Section 13.7 School Enrollment Required

Except as excused under the state compulsory attendance law (Wis. Stat. Sec. 118.15), any person having under their control a school aged child shall enroll the child in school.

Section 13.8 Requirement to Attend School

Except as excused under the state compulsory attendance law (Wis. Stat. Sec. 118.15), or under a school policy governing school attendance, any person having under their control a child (as defined in section 13.7) age 6 or older shall cause the child to attend the school in which the child is or should be enrolled.

Section 13.9 Truancy Prohibited.

- (A) Truancy is prohibited.
- (B) It shall be unlawful for any person to cause, assist, or enable a child to be truant.

Section 13.10 Enforcement

The Indian Child Welfare Worker, Tribal Social Worker, or Tribal Law Enforcement Officer may enforce the provisions of this code.

- (A) Any person authorized to enforce the provisions of this code may stop and question any person upon reasonable belief that the person has violated this code. Any child shall provide identification and give his or her name, addresses, age and parental information to any person authorized to enforce this code.
- (B) If, during school hours, a person authorized to enforce this code has probable cause to believe that a child is truant, the person may take the child into custody and transport the child to school and notify school authorities and parents of the child..

Section 13.11 Enforcement and Penalties

The school must document the following steps before the Tribal Court hears a truancy petition:

- (A) Met with the child's parent or guardian to discuss the child's truancy or attempted to meet with the child's parent or guardian and received no response or were refused.
- (B) Provide an opportunity for educational counseling to the child to determine whether a change in the child's curriculum would resolve the child's truancy and to consider curriculum modification under Wis. Stat. Sec. 118.15 (1) (d).
- (C) Evaluate the child to determine whether learning problems may be a cause of the child's truancy and, if so, take appropriate steps to overcome the learning problems, except that the child need not be evaluated if tests administered to the child within the previous year indicate that the child is performing at his or her grade level.
- (D) Conduct a review to determine whether social problems may be the cause of the child's truancy and, if so, take appropriate action or make appropriate referrals.

(E) Contact law enforcement to issue a citation for truancy.

Once referred to Tribal Court, the child, the child's parent, and the person responsible for the child if not the parent shall be summoned in accordance with Tribal Court procedure. If summoned to Tribal Court, appearance is mandatory by both the child and the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian.

Section 13.12 Unit of Prosecution

Regardless of the number of incidents of truancy in a single day, a child may not be prosecuted for more than one truancy violation per school day.

Section 13.13 Penalties

(A) Any child convicted of truancy under Section 13.10 (A) shall be subject to a minimum penalty of community services hours equal to the number of school hours truant, with a maximum civil money penalty of \$25.00 and/or seven (7) community services hours per incident of truancy.

(B) Any child who is convicted of aiding another child's truancy shall be subject to a minimum penalty of community service hours equal to the number of school hours the other child was truant, with a maximum civil money penalty of not more than \$50.00 and/or fourteen (14) community service hours.

(C) Any adult who is convicted of aiding a child's truancy shall be subject to a penalty not less than \$50.00, but not to exceed \$500.00. The presiding judge is authorized to order community service in his/her discretion.

(D) In addition to the imposition of civil forfeitures and community service hours for violations of this Chapter 13, the Tribal Court may impose other remedies including but not limited to: mental health counseling, alcohol assessment and counseling, limitations on the use of public facilities within the boundaries of the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation and loss of privileges that go with tribal membership.

Section 13.14

If the Tribal Court determines a child is habitually truant, the court may order the appropriate tribal agency to initiate an in-depth investigation into the child's background to determine if a Youth-in-Need-of-Care petition should be filed.

Section 13.15

Nothing herein shall prohibit the referral of a tribal child to the appropriate tribal agency for the filing of a Petition for Fact Finding under Chapter 8 of Stockbridge-

Munsee Tribal Law. A Petition for Fact Finding may be filed regarding any tribal child who has been truant for five (5) days or more in any 90 school day period.

Section 13.16

The Tribal Court shall have jurisdiction over cases brought to enforce this code. Proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with applicable Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal laws.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Stockbridge-Munsee Truancy Code approved by the Tribal Council in Resolution No. 226-97 on June 17, 1997.

Section 13.6(G) (School Attendance Officer) deleted, Section 13.11 amended by deleting references to School Attendance Officer, Section 13.5 revised to provide a clearer definition on March 5, 2002 by Resolution No. 013-02.

Approved by BIA on March 28, 2002.