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Interview Sheet Topic: Should parents be ticketed for their child’s habitual truancy?

Topic Summary: Many school districts in the U.S. are using a program to reduce habitual and chronic school tardies and truancies by issuing misdemeanor tickets to parents for child neglect. Tickets force parents to answer to a judge for their child’s behavior. If the judge finds the parent to be neglectful, consequences can be a fine, community service hours, or for repeated offenders, weekends in jail. Some school districts using this program have reported a significant decrease in truancies.

Questions:

1. Are you for or against parents being ticketed with a misdemeanor charge of child neglect if their child is late or absent to school a lot?
2. What do you think of the idea of giving tickets to parents if they don’t get their kids to school on time?
3. Do you think giving tickets to parents will reduce school tardies / truancies?
4. Should the money collected from tickets go to the school, to the court to pay for court costs, or both?
5. What types of penalties should the ticket have? Fines? Community service? Weekends in jail?