

# Vera Institute of Justice

## Criminal Justice Issues and Prisoners' Rights

**<https://www.vera.org/publications/from-courts-to-communities-the-right-response-to-truancy-running-away-and-other-status-offenses>**

## Policy Issue Resources

### Publication

Young people who run away from home, skip school, or engage in other risky behaviors that are only prohibited because of their age end up in courtrooms every year by the thousands. Responding to these cases, called status offenses, in the juvenile justice system can lead to punitive outcomes that are out of proportion to the young persons actions and do nothing to assess or address the underlying circumstances at the root of this misbehavior. With *From Courts to Communities: The Right Response to Truancy, Running Away, and Other Status Offenses*, Veras Center on Youth Justice, supported by funding from the MacArthur Foundations Models for Change Resource Center Partnership, aims to raise awareness about status offenses and spur conversations about how to effectively handle these cases by offering promising examples of state and local reform.

Transformative change, sent to your inbox.

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