

Did You Know?

- **Alcohol is the most frequently used drug by high school seniors.**
- Boys usually try alcohol for the first time at age 11, while the average age for girls is 13.
- Underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes, which is the leading cause of death among teenagers.
- Alcohol use contributes to youth suicides, homicides and fatal injuries, the second leading causes of death among youth after automobile crashes.
- Alcohol abuse is linked to as many as two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes of teens and college students.
- Alcohol is a major factor in unprotected sex among youth, increasing their risk of contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases.
- In recent Congressional Hearings, it was noted that **early intervention, effective communication, and parental involvement are essential to fighting the problem of underage drinking.**

How to Handle a Drunk or Drugged Teen

- Do not confront the child while under the influence. Delay the talk until he or she is straight or sober.
- Your immediate concern is the teen's health and safety. If you suspect an overdose or other life-threatening condition, call the paramedics immediately. If the teen's condition is not life-threatening and they do not live in your home, call his/her parent/guardian to transport him/her safely home.
- Gather your thoughts and evidence before confronting your child about his or her behavior. Discuss the matter in a controlled and firm manner.
- Set appropriate consequences for the behavior and enforce them. Make sure the child knows that s/he will have opportunities to regain your trust and earn the return of privileges.

Additional Resources

The following websites are a good place to start if you need more resources or suspect your child may have a substance abuse problem:

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI)

Phone: 1-800-788-2800 www.health.org

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

www.nida.nih.gov

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)

www.niaaa.nih.gov

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

(SAMHSA) www.family.samhsa.gov

Parents, the Anti-Drug

www.TheAntiDrug.com or www.freevibe.com

Teens, Partying, and the Law



A guide for Parents from Victor J. Andrew High School

Guiding children through young adulthood can pose real challenges. A natural and normal desire for independence can expose your child to activities that are not safe such as the use of alcohol, cigarettes, and illegal drugs.

Many times, these illegal activities take place when teens gather together at parties or other get-togethers such as Prom and Graduation.

This guide is designed to help parents recognize that while teenagers need to socialize and have fun, parents have a responsibility to understand the consequences of illegal activities and what steps can be taken to prevent poor choices by teenagers.

What Can You do to Help Stop Teenage Drinking?

Be Knowledgeable !

- Know the laws pertaining to minors and alcohol, and discuss them with your teenager
- Know and enforce curfew laws
- Know where your child is and who he or she is with
- Talk to your teen about how to handle situations where alcohol or drugs are available
- Don't underestimate the impact of alcohol and tobacco marketing and advertising on your teen

Be Consistent !

- Establish clear limits and apply them consistently. When kids are told it's okay to drink in certain situations, they are likely to think it's okay in other situations, too.
- Set reasonable consequences for violating limits. Avoid threats, emotional outbursts, or physical punishments.
- Have rules about overnights and enforce them.
- Do not allow graduation and other occasions to be celebrated with teen drinking as a reward.
- Do not let your kids talk you into allowing them to have alcohol in your home.
- Don't make exceptions or bargain with your kids!

Be Proactive !

- Be a responsible role model. If you drink alcoholic beverages, do so legally and responsibly.
- When you must go away and leave your teen at home alone, do ALL of the following:
 - Have an adult stay in the home
 - Alert the neighbors
 - Inform the parents of your child's friends
 - Ask the police to watch your house
- When you need to go out for the evening or all day while your teen remains at home unsupervised and you have reason to be suspicious...
 - Don't tell your teenager how long you'll be gone
 - Leave a phone number where you can be reached
 - Call home regularly and have someone check things out if you're concerned
- If your teen attends a party, contact the parent of the teen hosting the party.
- Provide lots of love, support and encouragement to your teen. Talk to and listen to him/her. Build a strong relationship with him or her.

What are the Legal Consequences for Teens Who Drink?

Underage Possession of Alcohol

Any person under the age of 21 who has alcohol in his or her possession on any street or in any public place may be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1,500 and/or imprisonment of up to six months.

Alcohol in a Vehicle

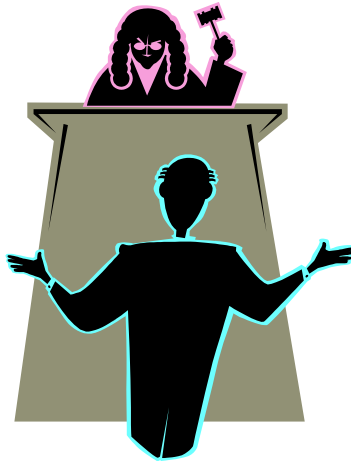
Any person under the age of 21 and in physical control of a motor vehicle in which there is alcohol, can have his/her license suspended for 12 months on the first offense.

Driving Under the Influence

The "Use It & Lose It" law requires an automatic three month suspension of a minor's drivers license if police detect even a trace of alcohol (0.01 or above) in the driver's system. A minor's refusal to submit to the sobriety test will result in an automatic suspension of driving privileges. An alcohol level of .08 or greater results in a drunken driving charge and loss of driving privileges. A DUI conviction remains on the driver's permanent record and results in the revocation of the driver's license.

Fake IDs

Any person convicted of using a fake ID or driver's license will lose their driver's license for 12 months or more. Jail time and a fine are also possible.



College Financial Aid

A federal law enacted in 1998 authorizes the suspension of federal student loans or grant eligibility if a student is convicted of a drug-related offense.

What

are the Legal Consequences for Parents, Adults, and Siblings?

Alcohol and Social Host Laws

A person who knowingly gives, sells, or furnishes alcoholic beverages to a person who is under age 21 is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to \$2,500 or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

A person (parent or anyone else) who knowingly allows under-age drinking on his or her premises is guilty of a class A misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of up to \$2,500 or imprisonment for up to 12 months.

Parental Responsibility : Under Illinois law, a parent is deemed to have given permission if:

- He or she knowingly authorized the use
- He or she enables the use of the residence by failing to control access to either the residence or alcohol maintained in the residence
- Permission is presumed to have been given, unless the contrary is established by a preponderance of the evidence. "Being out of town" is not necessarily accepted as an excuse

Civil liability for monetary damages attaches to a child's parent of a child under the age of 21 who is permitted to consume alcohol in a host residence, leaves the residence in an intoxicated state, and then injures another person.

Fake IDs

Lending a license or state ID to a friend or younger sibling can result in a Class A misdemeanor punishable by one year in jail and a fine up to \$2,500.

Providing any identification document, whether real or fictitious for the purpose of obtaining a fictitious driver's license can result in a Class 4 Felony punishable by 1-3 years in jail and a fine up to \$2,500.