

Sign the Safety Agreement

- Discuss the following safety agreement. Explain that you will follow the same rules regarding highway safety that you expect of your child, however, emphasize the importance of "no-use" concerning alcohol and the Zero Tolerance Law.
- Agree on age-appropriate consequences to be used if either one of you breaks the agreement.
- Keep the agreement in a safe place and refer to it on a regular basis.
- Remember that discussing and signing this agreement together shows mutual respect, trust, and love.

Teen

I agree to take actions to keep safe. I will always use my seat belt, and I will not use alcohol or other drugs. I will find another ride or call you rather than ride with a drinking or drug-taking driver. If I ride a motorcycle, I promise that I will wear a helmet. I recognize that you care about what happens to me, and I will keep this agreement.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Parent

I agree to take actions to keep safe. I will always use my seat belt. If I choose to drink alcohol, I will not drive and I will only ride with a sober driver. I will find another ride or call you rather than ride with a drinking or drug-taking driver. If I ride a motorcycle, I promise that I will wear a helmet. I recognize that you care about me, and I will keep this agreement.

SIGNATURE

DATE

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's Bureau of Alcohol Education offers a variety of alcohol education materials free of charge.

For more information, please contact us:

**Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
Office of Regulatory Affairs
Bureau of Alcohol Education**

Northwest Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17124-0001

www.lcb.state.pa.us

Or call our toll-free line:

1 (800) 453-PLCB (7522)

Hearing Impaired:
TDD/TTY (717) 772-3725



PLCB DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

This information is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys information pertinent to alcohol-related offenses. For more information or further clarification, please contact your local District Attorney's Office or a private attorney.

The Responsible Parent



Talking to your teens about alcohol & the law



Know PA's Laws

Being a parent isn't easy. And when it comes to alcohol, the job gets even tougher as your child gets older. How should the subject of beer, wine, and liquor be approached in discussions with your kids, especially during the adolescent years? The first step is to **know the laws in Pennsylvania concerning alcohol**—including the penalties for underage drinking and underage driving under the influence (DUI). The second step is to **establish a clear “no-use” rule concerning alcohol** until the age of 21.

- **It's a crime to sell or give alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21—even your own kids.** Penalties include a fine of \$1,000 – \$2,500 for the first violation, \$2,500 for each subsequent violation, and up to a year in jail.
- A minor who is convicted of lying about his or her age, or carrying a false ID card to obtain alcohol, purchasing, attempting to purchase, possessing, or transporting alcohol will lose his or her driver's license for (90) days for the first offense, one (1) year for a second offense, and two (2) years for a third and subsequent offense and fines up to \$500 plus court costs for a first offense. If a person does not yet have a driver's license, they will be ineligible to apply for a learner's permit for the time period of the suspension. If someone is under 16 years of age, the suspension will not begin until their 16th birthday.
- Anyone under the age of 21 who is driving with a blood alcohol content of .02% or higher can be arrested for driving under the influence (DUI) according to Pennsylvania's Zero Tolerance law.
- In Pennsylvania, DUI offenders between 18 and 21 years old are processed the same as adult offenders. Penalties for a first offense include fines up to \$5,000, license suspension of one year, a forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hour mandatory prison term depending on his or her blood alcohol level, and attendance at a mandatory highway safety school. Juvenile offenders (under 18 years old) are processed through juvenile court. Penalties for juvenile offenders may differ from those for adults.
- Underage DUI offenders also face charges of underage drinking (including fines and penalties).

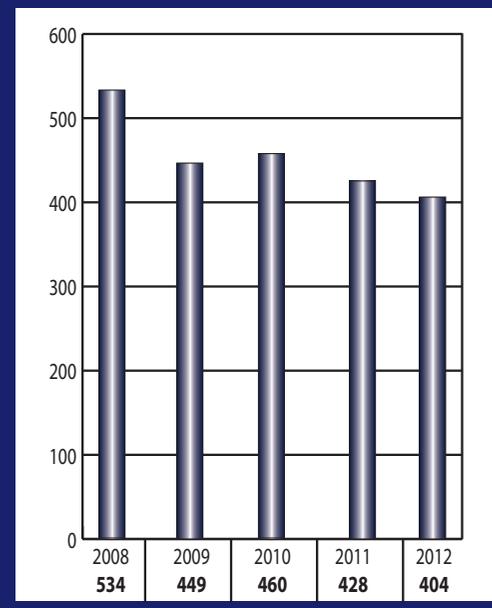
What the Law Means

Serving alcohol to minors or driving under the influence of alcohol—at any age—are serious crimes that cause injury and death. In 2012, 18% of the driver deaths in the 16-20 year olds age group were drinking drivers. This is an improvement from 26% in 2011.

Alcohol-related crashes are totally preventable. Every year in Pennsylvania these senseless tragedies take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. In 2012, slightly over four hundred (404) were killed due to alcohol. 90% of the alcohol-related occupant deaths (drivers and passengers) were in the vehicle driven by the drinking driver while 75% were the drinking drivers themselves.

Young drivers are less likely than adults to drive after drinking alcohol, but their crash risk is substantially higher when they do. Young male drivers (16 to 20 years old) with BACs between .05% and .08% are 17 times more likely to be killed in single vehicle crashes than sober teenage male drivers. Young female drivers of the same age with the same BACs are 7 times more likely to be killed in single vehicle crashes than their sober counterparts.²

Deaths From Alcohol Related Crashes in Pennsylvania³



What Parents Can Do

- **Be a Positive Role Model**
Everyone wants their children to grow up to become responsible adults, so be sure to set a good example for your kids. If you drink to excess, drive after you have been drinking, or take medications with alcohol, you can expect your teenager to do the same.
- **Talk With Your Teenagers About Alcohol**
This means talk with your teenager not only about alcohol and the law, but also how alcohol affects a teenager's body. Share with your teenager the information they need to know to abide by the laws and make responsible decisions. Explain to your son or daughter how alcohol impacts the developing mind and why they should wait until they are 21 to decide whether or not to drink alcohol.
- **Set and Enforce Guidelines**
Make sure your teenager knows and understands your family's rules. Establish limits and consequences, and stick to them. Trust your decision—it is important your teenager knows you will be awake and waiting to greet them when they come home.
- **Be Active in Your Teenager's Life**
Plan alcohol-free events and parties with your teen. Showing you have an interest in your son or daughter's life shows you care. If planning a party, make sure that it is understood that you will be home, checking in on the party, and will be available if there is any problem.
- **Get to Know the Other Parents**
Know your son or daughter's friends and get to know their parents. Don't be afraid to call the other parents to ensure they are also responsible and are not providing alcohol or creating an environment in which underage drinking could occur.