CURRENTLY IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has taken a strong stance against underage and dangerous drinking among college students. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board has developed partnerships with institutions of higher education to promote strategies to reduce underage and dangerous drinking by students. These coalitions are only one piece to solving the problem. An important component is you — the parent or guardian.

For many parents and young adults, discussing the subject of alcohol is not easy. You may be unsure of when or how to begin, and your child may try to dodge the conversation. In order to have an effective conversation with your child, it is important for you to be aware of the risks and consequences associated with alcohol.

IS YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER PREPARED?

College may be your child’s first time away from your rules and influence. He/she may feel insecure in a new social setting and want to fit in. Alcohol use while in college is not a “rite of passage” as some students and parents may think. Make sure they know not everyone is drinking; there are many students who do not let alcohol get in the way of education.

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

In 1998, The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act gave colleges and universities the approval to disclose alcohol or controlled substance violations to parents and guardians. The law permits, but does not require, schools to notify parents any time a student under 21 violates drug or alcohol laws. Check with your school’s dean of students or student affairs office to find out if it practices parental notification.
With this guide, parents can help lower the percentage!

80.5 percent of surveyed college students consumed alcohol this year.

45.8 percent of surveyed students were freshmen.

As your child heads to college, you can still reinforce your views about underage alcohol use.

81.8 percent of surveyed 12th graders think that their parents would feel it was “wrong” or “very wrong” for them to use alcohol.

The first six weeks of freshman year are an especially vulnerable time for heavy drinking and alcohol-related consequences because of student expectations and social pressures at the start of the academic year.

CAREER CONSEQUENCES

The effects of underage drinking may reach beyond the classroom. More companies are not only doing background checks on potential employees, but also searching social media sites such as Facebook for irresponsible behavior related to alcohol use. Graduates may be denied employment opportunities due to alcohol-related criminal convictions.

IN PENNSYLVANIA

A youth (under age 21) commits a summary offense if he or she attempts to purchase, purchases, consumes, possesses, or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor or malt or brewed beverages.

KNOW THE POLICY

Your child’s school can add consequences in addition to the criminal charges. These can include academic probation, loss of housing, fines, suspension, and/or expulsion.

ACADEMIC RISKS

Class attendance, grades, and overall interest in education could drop due to the effects of alcohol. This may lead to course failure and/or delayed graduation. Adding another semester or year to an academic plan could cost you and your child thousands.

Sources:
1. Core Survey results, 2015
2. PAYS 2015
3. PA Crimes Code