It is important that your teen understands underage drinking laws and your rules about the behaviors you will and will not allow. You can use the safety agreement below to ensure that the rules are clear and understood.

- Explain you are making the agreement so your teen knows the rules.
- Explain you’re doing this to keep them safe.
- Have the agreement in writing.
- List all laws and rules you expect your teen to follow.
- Agree on appropriate consequences for breaking the agreement.
- Sign the agreement.
- Stick to the agreement.
- Show them you have rules to follow, too.

Your teen’s recognition of safety risks related to underage drinking and the understanding of related laws may have a positive influence on his/her choices and the choices made by his/her friends.

SAFETY AGREEMENT

TEEN
I agree to take actions to keep me safe. I will not use, attempt to purchase, or transport alcohol. I will find a sober ride or call you rather than ride with a drinking or drunk driver. I recognize that you care about what happens to me and will keep this agreement.

SIGNATURE  DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN
I agree to take actions to keep me safe. I will not provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. If I choose to drink alcohol, I will not drive and will only ride with a sober driver. I will find a sober ride or call you rather than ride with a drinking or drunk driver. I recognize that you care about me and will keep this agreement.

SIGNATURE  DATE
DID YOU KNOW...

PA 8TH GRADERS
- 33.9 percent of PA 8th graders reported having used alcohol?
- 24.8 percent of PA 8th graders reported obtaining alcohol by taking without permission, stealing, or finding it?

PA 10TH GRADERS
- 22.3 percent of PA 10th graders reported having used alcohol in the last 30 days?
- 88.9 percent of PA 10th graders reported that their parents would disapprove of them using alcohol?

PA 12TH GRADERS
- 18.0 percent of PA 12th graders reported engaging in binge drinking?
- 6.4 percent of PA 12th graders reported driving after consuming alcohol?

For PA students who reported using alcohol, 71.3 percent indicated their family has no clear rules about alcohol and drug use.


KNOW THE LAWS

A youth (under the age of 21) commits a summary offense if he or she purchases, attempts to purchase, consumes, possesses, or knowingly and intentionally transports any liquor or malt or brewed beverages. The penalty for a first offense of this nature is a maximum fine of $500 and up to $1,000 for each subsequent offense, as well as a license suspension.

Knowing and falsely misrepresenting your age for the purpose of buying alcohol is punishable with up to a $300 fine for the first offense and up to $500 for each subsequent offense.

Manufacturing, altering, or selling an identification card to falsely represent identity, birth date, or age is punishable with a fine of not less than $1,000 for a first offense and a fine of not less than $2,500 for subsequent offenses, as well as up to two years imprisonment.

A youth driving under the influence will face DUI charges of a mandatory $500 for a first offense and up to $1,000 for each subsequent offense, as well as license suspension.

Source: PA Crimes Code, Section 6307, 6308, Section 6310.2.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Have the alcohol conversation
- Set and enforce guidelines
- Maintain an open line of communication
- Be a positive role model
- Suggest and provide alternatives to underage drinking
- Familiarize yourself with the parents of your teen’s friends