

TALK2PREVENT

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Talk Today, Tomorrow & Always - Don't Ever Stop Talking

“Sitting down” for the “big talk” about alcohol can be intimidating for both you & your child. Try using everyday opportunities to talk, such as in the car, during dinner, or watching TV together.

- **Use real world examples** that your kids would know about. Celebrities, sport figures and musicians are too often in the news for their substance use. “Hey I heard about... What do you think about that?”
- **Be honest.** If there is a history of alcoholism or drug abuse in your family, tell them about it. If you can, tell them all the details about who is struggling and how it impacts everyone in the family. If it is you, tell your kids your experience and treat it as you would any other disease. “I worry because we aren't like everyone else, and you have a higher risk for developing a drug or alcohol problem.”
- **Be real and let them know** just how dangerous it really is. “Did you know it only takes [this much] alcohol before you are too impaired to drive?”
- **Empower your child.** Ask them what they think and what they think you should know. “What do you think is the biggest issue facing teens today? How do you face it?”
- **Know what you are talking about!** “I read that x in 10 kids your age are drinking. I know it might not be you, but it's probably happening with your friends and with people you know. Do you want to talk about it?”
- **Stay strong.** Your kids may answer with a yes or no, may be defensive or angry. Don't stop the conversation. Take a breath and start again. “Did my question upset you? Why, help me understand what you are feeling.”
- **Be aware of and sensitive to their transitions** such as starting middle school or high school, a break-up, the loss of a friend, or graduation. “This is a different time for you – are you scared, curious or concerned? I went through all this too. Let me tell you how it affected me.”

For information about how to talk with your child to prevent underage drinking, go to manhassetcasa.org or talk2prevent.ny.gov



Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services



Nassau County Social Host Law

- You and anyone over the age of 18 are breaking the law if you give alcohol to your teen's friends who are under the age of 21, under any circumstance. You and anyone over the age of 18 are subject to prosecution under the Social Host Law if you knowingly allow a person under 21 to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages.
- A Social Host Law violation is a misdemeanor - a criminal conviction punishable by progressive fines and penalties:
 - 1st offense is subject to a fine of \$250;
 - 2nd offense is subject to a fine of \$500; and the
 - 3rd offense and future offenses are subject to a fine of \$1000 and/or up to a year in jail.

NYS Leandra's Law

- **In New York State**, it is a Class E Felony to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs while a child who is 15 years of age or younger is a passenger in the vehicle. If convicted, the court requires the installation and use of an ignition interlock device.

NYS General Obligation Law

- **In New York State**, any person injured by a minor who is intoxicated, or whose ability is impaired may sue for the resulting damage against whoever knowingly provided the alcohol to the minor (Stop DWI New York).

NYS Good Samaritan Law

- **In New York State**, a person who in good faith seeks care for himself or someone experiencing a life threatening emergency will not be charged or prosecuted for a drug or alcohol related offense including possession of drug paraphernalia, with some exceptions.
- Protection does not extend to offenses involving drug trafficking and sale, obstruction or interference with law enforcement, and possession of felony amounts of controlled substances or marijuana.

**Always CALL 911 in a
life-threatening emergency**

**Call 1.866.UNDER21 to
ANONYMOUSLY report
illegal purchase or consumption
of alcohol by minors.**