



A Message From The Director

Pamela A. Mautte, Director, VSAAC

The goal of VSAAC's prom / graduation campaign is to prevent injuries and deaths related to the use of alcohol, other drugs or engagement in risky behaviors by young people. Please join us in supporting safe, healthy, and drugs free celebrations. Together, we change and save lives in our communities.

The upcoming season of prom and graduations is one of the most memorable times of your child's school year – a time to celebrate with friends and remember forever. Unfortunately, many teens are very vulnerable to the risks of underage drinking at this time of year. When teens party, they're even more vulnerable to engaging in risky behaviors they may otherwise never partake in such as playing drinking games in which extremes are the goal, driving under the influence, suicide, sexual activity, and other delinquent behaviors.

It is no secret that kids under the age of 21 years old are drinking. In fact, 62.6% of valley 11th graders have used alcohol in the past year and 43.1% have used in the past 30 days according to the 2007 Valley Survey of Student Needs conducted by VSAAC.

It is therefore critical that parents, neighbors, and friends keep the lines of communication, set expectation and consequences if the rules are broken. We ask that you share our message in promoting that alcohol consumption is not acceptable by teenagers and it is against the law. We also ask that you encourage kids to attend planned post prom activities that are alcohol and drug free or supervised parties in which adults are present and visible. Research shows that most teenagers appreciate it when their parents set boundaries and establish expectations that are enforced. Remember we need to lead by example.

Tips & Reminders For Safe Celebrations:

CT has a social host liability law that is enforced. The law is as follows: Any persons who permit underage drinking to occur in their homes can be held accountable and minors are prohibited from possessing and drinking alcohol anywhere unless accompanied by their parent or as part of a religious observance. [Public Act 06-112](#) sends a consistent message to everyone that underage drinking is unhealthy, unsafe and unacceptable everywhere and closes a glaring loophole in the state's alcohol possession law.

Under PA-06-112, a first offense for permitting minors to possess alcohol on your property or failing to halt the possession of alcohol by minors on your property is an infraction subject to a \$146 fine. The penalty for subsequent offenses results in a fine up to \$500 and/or up to 1 year in prison.

Under the revised CGS Section 30-89b which addresses the possession of alcohol by minors anywhere, the first offense is also an infraction and has a \$181 fine. Subsequent violations result in fines between \$200 and \$500. In addition,

under another statute CGS Sec. 14-111e passed in 1997, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the motor vehicle operator's license or nonresident operating privilege of any person under the age of twenty-one who has been convicted of a violation of section 30-88a involving the misuse of an operator's license or section 30-89 involving the purchase and possession of alcoholic liquor by a minor for 5 months.

- Do not allow unsupervised parties
- Report teen alcohol parties before an accident or tragedy occurs
- Talk with your teen about his or her personal responsibility
- Discuss not leaving a party and returning
- Call parents if guests leave your house at a supervised party
- Call parents if guest show up intoxicated
- Communicate with other parents prior to the activities
- Know your teen's whereabouts at all times –ask questions about location and supervision
- Send them text messages throughout the night such as: Have fun 2night. Stay safe. Don't drink. Luv u.
- Have back up plans in place with your teens if they find themselves in a risky / uncomfortable situation

Remember...Taking the Keys does not solve all of the problems related to underage drinking.

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