

What is SAFE HOMES?

Bedford SAFE HOMES Program is a support network for families with children in Grades 6-12 who are concerned about alcohol and drug use at pre-teen and teen parties.

Families sign a pledge (see form) that commits them to provide a safe and supervised home in the event of a teen party or gathering. All families who return pledges receive a Directory that includes the other families who have joined Safe Homes.

Why Do We Need This Program?

The results of the most recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey can inform families about the trends of risky behaviors in Bedford. Visit the Youth and Family Services website for current survey results: www.bedfordma.gov/youth

SAFE HOMES Benefits?

In addition to receiving the Safe Homes Directory in November, families who join Safe Homes send a message to their teens that they do not support underage alcohol consumption or illegal drug use. Parents continue to be a strong influence in the lives of teens. Families are encouraged to check with each other if there is a party hosted by a Safe Homes family.

HOW DO I JOIN?

To participate in the program, parents or guardians read, sign and return the non-legally binding agreement form on the reverse of this brochure. Or sign up on line by going to our website www.bedfordma.gov/youth, and then click on Prevention Services.

SAFE HOMES Parents Agree

Here is the *SAFE HOMES* Pledge that participants will sign:

- *I will not serve nor will I allow the consumption of alcohol by youth under the legal drinking age in my home or on my property.*
- *I will not allow the use or presence of any illegal drugs in my home or on my property.*
- *I will be present and visible during any party or large gathering in my home or on my property. I will not allow the use of my home or property for parties when I am not present.*
- *I will provide secure storage for firearms and other potentially hazardous items in my home or on my property.*

Please consider taking a firm stand. Join the SAFE HOMES Program by thoughtfully signing the attached pledge. Follow through on your pledge because other parents will trust that you are. Talk with your child about this program and share your concerns regarding his/her safety.

A Message from

Police Chief Robert Bongiorno:

Parents who may have to be away for an extended period of time and have to leave their teenager(s) at home without another adult present may contact the Bedford Police Department to check their home daily for unwanted parties and guests. Parents wishing to take advantage of this service should:

- Fill out and sign the police department's "Away Book" at the police station. This form can also be found under Crime Prevention on our website www.bedfordpd.org
- Discuss and explain the "Away Book" program with their teenager(s) prior to departure. This can provide some relief to the teen at home and alleviate "peer pressure" from their friends and other uninvited guests who may show up at a home wanting to party or engage in risky behaviors upon learning parents are away.
- Immediately notify the Bedford Police if they suspect any underage drinking or drug use in their home.

For more information, call the Bedford Police Department at 781-275-1212.

CIVIL LIABILITY

If an adult gives or allows alcohol to be consumed by anyone under 21, including one's own child, and that person causes personal injury or property damage, the adult and the minor are both civilly liable for financial damages. Therefore, if there is a party with alcohol in your home, even if you are unaware of it, you could be held responsible for injuries and damages.



Bedford



SAFE HOMES

TO SIGN UP, COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM

Endorsed by:
Bedford Board of Health
Bedford Selectmen
Bedford Youth and Family Services
Bedford Clergy Association
Bedford Community Partnership
Bedford Parent Associations
Bedford Police Department
Bedford Public Schools
Bedford Recreation Commission

It's the LAW...

In Massachusetts, it is a crime with possibility of arrest or criminal prosecution:

- To serve alcohol to anyone under 21 other than your own child, even in your own home, even with permission from other parents.
- For an adult to sell alcohol to or purchase for anyone under 21.
- For anyone under 21 to purchase alcohol.
- To borrow an I.D. or to falsely state to be 21 or older in order to purchase alcohol.
- To alter, transfer, or deface I.D. cards purchased from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- For anyone under 21 to transport alcohol opened or unopened in a car.
- To drive under the influence of alcohol.
- For anyone, regardless of age, to have alcohol on public school premises, even in the parking lot.
- To consume alcohol, at any age, in a public place unless specifically authorized by law.
- For anyone 16 and a half to 18 to drive between 1:00 am and 4:00 am without a parent or guardian in the car.

Underage drinking is harmful to your kids. Love them enough to say no. Take the parent pledge.

I will join the Bedford *SAFE HOMES PROGRAM*. I agree, to the best of my ability to:

- Not serve or allow the consumption of alcohol by youth under the legal drinking age in my home or on my property.
- Not allow parties or gatherings in my home or on my property when there is no adult supervision.
- Not allow the use of or presence of any illegal drugs in our home or on our property.
- Provide a secure storage place for firearms or other potentially hazardous items.

*Parent(s) Name(s) (please print) _____

Address _____

Student(s) Name(s)/Grade Level _____

Phone(s) _____

I understand that our names, address, phone number and student name(s) will be listed in the *SAFE HOMES* Directory, and that I will receive a copy of this directory. I understand that this information will be used solely for the purposes stated here.

Signed: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO: *SAFE HOMES PROGRAM*

Bedford Youth & Family Services

Bedford Town Center

12 Mudge Way Bedford, MA 01730

SIGN UP ON LINE:

Go to the Youth and Family Services website: www.bedfordma.gov/youth, click on Prevention Services and click on Safe Homes sign up.