Baltimore County Department of Health Bureau of Substance Abuse

Safe & Sober Prom Season 2007 Parent Guide &



Pledge Book



Dear Parents:

On behalf of the Baltimore County Department of Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse, we are pleased to present the Baltimore County Safe and Sober Prom Season Booklet 2007 for your use. In this booklet you will find information on underage drinking, young driver safety, consequences of providing alcohol to minors, and suggestions for parents who would like to support their school's after-prom activities.

This booklet also contains the names of area limousine and bus companies who have signed the Baltimore County Safe and Sober Pledge. The pledge signers have agreed that they will not allow any young person to use tobacco, alcohol, or any other drugs while using the transportation services of their company. We encourage parents to take the extra precaution of accessing the Maryland Public Service Commission website (www.psc.state.md.us) to insure that the company chosen meets minimum safety requirements. We hope that you support businesses that have made a commitment to the safety of our youth.

We hope you find this information useful as you continue to provide guidance and support to your child throughout his/her teenage years. Prom and graduation season should be a time for families to celebrate this important milestone. With your guidance, and the support of the businesses in this booklet, we look forward to another safe and sober prom and graduation season.

Sincerely,

Pierre N. Vigilance, M.D., M.P.H. Director and Health Officer

Kathleen Rebbert-Franklin, LCSW-C Chief-Bureau of Substance Abuse

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Know the Facts About Underage Drinking and Drug Use

- Underage drinking can lead to severe and tragic consequences including car crashes, injuries, rape, sexual assault, suicide, pregnancy, academic failure, alcohol poisoning, alcoholism, potentially irreversible brain damage, and death.
- Individuals who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to become dependent on alcohol than are those who begin drinking after age 21.
- One-fourth of 16–20 year old drivers who die in crashes have high blood alcohol concentrations. The risk of a crash is substantially higher when teens drive after drinking. This is true even for low and moderate blood alcohol concentrations, possibly because teens are also less experienced drivers.
- The results of the MD State Dept of Education 2004 Adolescent Survey indicate that of Baltimore County 12th grade students:
 - **68%** have tried alcohol, **48%** have used within the last 30 days
 - **39%** have used marijuana, **24%** within the last 30 days
 - 27% have driven at least once after consuming one to four drinks, 14% have driven after having as many as five or more drinks, 25% have had to choose whether to accept a ride from a driver they knew had consumed alcohol or drugs, 14% reported they had accepted a ride from an impaired driver three or more times

For sources of information presented in this publication, please contact the Bureau of Substance Abuse at 410-887-3828.

Encourage Young Driver Safety

What Parents CAN do...

• Limit the number of teen passengers in your young driver's car to one or zero.

The presence of one teen passenger nearly doubles the risk of a fatal crash. Having two or more teen passengers increases the risk of having a fatal crash nearly five times as much as compared to driving alone.

• Limit your young driver to driving in daylight hours only.

In 2001, 36% of the motor vehicle crashes involving young drivers happened between the hours of 6 PM and 6 AM.

• Set a good example. Always wear your seat belt and insist your young driver do the same.

In 2001, only 36% of young drivers involved in motor vehicle crashes were wearing seat belts. Wearing proper occupant restraint has been shown to cut the risk of a driver or passenger dying in a crash in half.

• Discourage distractions for your teen driver.

Distractions are a major cause of young driver crashes. These can include use of cell phones, adjusting the radio or CD player, talking to other passengers, personal grooming, etc. Talking on a cell phone while driving quadruples the risk of being involved in a car collision.

Remember, you as a parent are still the most influential person in your child's life and the decisions he/she makes.

For more information on young driver safety, visit http://parentsofyoungdrivers.com.

DON'T Be a "Buyer" or Support Underage Drinking Parties!

It is <u>illegal</u> for an adult to host an underage drinking party or to purchase alcohol for persons under 21 years of age, even with their parents' permission.

An adult found guilty of providing alcohol for an individual under 21 (other than their own child) is subject to a \$1,000 fine for the first offense and \$1,500 fine for each subsequent offense for each underage person, e.g., hosting an underage drinking party for 10 minors could result in fines totaling \$10,000.

Adults who provide alcohol to individuals under 21 can be sued if the youth hurts someone, damages property, or is involved in a car crash. In addition, Maryland law states that persons under 21 who operate a vehicle with *any* trace of alcohol in their system are subject to license suspension for one year.

Tips for Parents

Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their children:

- Be home when your child has a party.
- Get to know the parents of your child's friends. Invite them to chaperone.
- Plan alcohol-free activities in your home and make teens feel welcome. Make sure your child's friends do not bring alcohol onto your property.
- Help your teenager plan the party. Avoid sending e-mail invitations that can easily be forwarded to others.
- Limit guests to certain areas of your home. Let them know that if they leave the party, they cannot return.
- Monitor the party without being conspicuous (e.g., replenish snacks, etc.).
- Provide plenty of food and nonalcoholic beverages.
- Report underage drinking to your local precinct.

Support Your Teen's After-Prom Activity

Exciting events such as the senior prom are often followed by "high-risk" behavior, including drinking, using drugs, and driving carelessly. Adolescents often see these behaviors as acceptable, even expected, at the time.

After-prom events are designed to offer a safe, tobaccoand alcohol-free activity as an alternative to high-risk activities.

Assist your child with his/her after-prom plan:

- Encourage your child to attend the after-prom party planned by the PTSA or school's After-Prom Committee and to stay at the party until they are ready to come home.
- Know how your child will get home from the party. (The Limousine will take them to the prom and after-prom site, but will not wait until the party is over unless you've made those arrangements.) Parents not picking up their child after the event may want to drop off a car at the after-prom activity site.
- Encourage your child to take a change of clothes with them so they can change at the party if they will be uncomfortable in their formalwear.

Support the event:

A successful after-prom event must have enough activities for students to want to stay through the critical hours immediately following the prom. Planners must provide enough entertainment, food, incentives, music, games, etc. to accomplish this, which is costly. Contact your child's school about the event if you haven't yet received information from the PTSA or After-Prom Chairperson. Ask them how you can help support the activity.

Baltimore County Department of Health Bureau of Substance Abuse

SAFE & SOBER TRANSPORTATION COMPANY PLEDGE

The Baltimore County Safe and Sober Transportation Company Pledge is part of a voluntary program aimed at protecting the lives of young people during the prom and graduation season. Since this is a voluntary program, all companies who sign the Safe and Sober Transportation Pledge are encouraged to adhere to the spirit and policies of the program.

The Baltimore County Department of Health Bureau of Substance Abuse, The Maryland Limousine Association, and the Baltimore County Public School System are working together to ensure that the policies and procedures of this program are followed.

If a transportation company that has signed this pledge does not follow these polices, this oversight group has the authority to suspend or terminate the transportation company from the Safe and Sober Pledge program.

The following policies will be adhered to by this company and its drivers:

- Tobacco products will not be used by minors in our vehicles.
- Alcohol will not be supplied to anyone under twenty-one years of age while in our vehicles.
- Alcohol use will not be allowed by anyone under twenty-one years of age while in our vehicles.
- Alcohol will not be transported for anyone under twenty-one years of age.
- Illegal drug use or possession will not be permitted.

The following procedures are also recommended:

- Companies should monitor what passengers bring into the vehicle.
- Vehicles should be checked each time passengers depart from the vehicle.
- Appropriate number of staff should be provided to properly monitor the passengers.

We have read the Baltimore County Safe and Sober Transportation Pledge and agree that our company and its drivers will adhere to the spirit and policies of the program. We understand that if our transportation company violates any of the polices and procedures of the program that we may face suspension and possible termination from the Baltimore County Safe and Sober Transportation Pledge Program.

We understand that this decision would be made from an oversight group consisting of a representative of the Baltimore County Department of Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse, The Maryland Limousine Association, and the Baltimore County Board of Education.

Pledge Signers

A Abonmarche` Limousine 24150 Doreen Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20882 301-253-0652 Laura Harr

A Bit of Class of Limousine Service, Inc. PO Box 99 Millersville, MD 21108 410-768-5878 Joel Almuete

A Day Dream Limousine, LLC PO Box 728 New Windsor, MD 21776 410-876-8084 Shar Hohmes

A Gentle Touch Limousine, Inc. 7756 Moonfall Court Pasedena, MD 21122 410-437-1444 Denise Bakksh

A Platinum Plus Limousines, Inc. 6146 Downs Ridge Court Elkridge, MD 21075 410-796-7433 Michael Greene

A Touch of Class Limousines 5235 Westview Drive, Suite 100 Frederick, MD 21703 301-698-2650 Randy Hively A Tradition of Excellence Limousine Service 9353 Torrent Row Columbia, MD 21045 410-884-0903 Wayne Lucas

Absolute Elegance Limousine Inc. PO Box 851 Edgewood, MD 21040 410-679-8555 Timothy Foster

Absolute Limousines, LLC 207 Cadle Avenue Edgewater, MD 21037 410-798-6006 Sharon Rodgers

About Town Limousine Service, Inc. PO Box 276 North East, MD 21901 410-287-6400 Carol Gerhart

Affordable Luxury Limousine PO Box 278 White Marsh, MD 21162 410-529-5006 Michael Sandler

Aires Limousine, Inc. 523 Applewood Drive Bel Air, MD 21014 410-893-9156 Lucinda McFillen All Around Limousine Service 6809 Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-768-1148 George Rains

All Around the County Transportation Services, Inc. PO Box 20179 Baltimore, MD 21284 410-663-7000 Joanna Fridinger

All Luxury Limo 1702 Jackson Road Dundalk, MD 21222 410-288-5466 Dave DeCarlo / Dale Lawrence

Allseasons Transportation 3 West Nap Lane Annapolis, MD 21401 410-974-1919 J. Steve Justis

Am-Brit Limousine Service, Inc. 3671 Double Rock Lane Baltimore, MD 21234 410-661-9920 John Cody

American Limousines, Inc. 4401 E. Fairmount Avenue Baltimore, MD 21224 410-522-0400 Gary Day

An Extraordinar Limousine & Transport Service, Inc. 1113 Dorsey Road Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-437-8200 Roger Brown An Xtreme Limo Scene, Inc. 8 Rider Mill Court Owings Mills, MD 21117 443-744-9281 Dawn Mynaugh

A.S. Midway Tours & Limousine 2400 Sisson Street Baltimore, MD 21211 410-367-6900 Dwayne Greer

Bayside Limousines, Inc. 680 Crain Highway Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 800-439-2225 Gary Matthews

Belaire Limousine, Inc. PO Box 37 Bel Air, MD 21014 410-879-4548 Caroyln Nelson

Carey Limousine 8800 Corridor Road Annapolis Junction, MD 20701 410-880-0999 Janora Winkler

CCC Limousine, LLC 6122 Old Washington Road Sykesville, MD 21784 410-984-2939 Mark Sarem

Classic Limousine & Sedan Service, LLC 106 West 25th Street Baltimore, MD 21218 410-235-4101 Theodore Easter Columbia Limousine Service 6809 Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-768-1148 George Rains

Comfort Zone Limousine 6809 Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-768-1148 George Rains

DawnsNest Limousine Service 3573 Shannon Drive Baltimore, MD 21213 443-677-8835 Donita Stewart

Destiny Limousine, Inc. 19 St. Agnes Road Glen Burnie, MD 21060 443-889-1555 / 443-763-4216 Donna C. Frye

Executive Carriage 8359 Washington Blvd Jessup, MD 20794 410-880-3500 Sean Mundie

Extreme Limousine, Inc. 680 Crain Highway Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 301-390-1758 Jonce Gibson

First Choice Transportation, Inc. 11240 Reisterstown Road Owings Mills, MD 21117 410-356-3499 Kim Little Gold Key Limousine 6809 Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-768-1148 George Rains

High Limousine Livery Service, Inc. 2660 West Patapsco Ave. Baltimore, MD 21230 410-646-5400 Sherry High

Higher Level Limousine 38 Chesters Way Elkton, MD 21921 410-392-5800 Lisa Carraway-Futch

Hire Quality Limousine 2235 Conowingo Road Bel Air, MD 21015 410-803-0451 Barbara Ballard

JTI Limousine 13004 St. Gregory Court Mitchellville, MD 20721 301-249-6077 Tina Frizzell-Jenkins

L & S Limousine & Sedan Service 4805 Lindsay Road Baltimore, MD 21229 410-916-1966 Larry Strickland

Lasting Impressions Deejay & Limousine Service, Inc. PO Box 1406 Westminster, MD 21158 410-848-6898 Kimberli Klein Lighthouse Limousines 116 Millswamp Road Edgewater, MD 21037 410-798-8881 Leon Johnson

Nationwide Limousine Service 2085 York Road Timonium, MD 21093 410-252-8000 Vernon Parker

Next Level Limousine Service 154 Winters Lane Catonsville, MD 21228 410-747-3378 Valjean Gilmore

Ogilvie Transportation Services PO Box 12233 Silver Spring, MD 20908 301-598-0591 Shelia Ogilvie

Patriot Limousines, LLC 1176 Long Valley Road Westminster, MD 21158 410-848-3650 Nicholas Zoulias

Princess Limousine 705 S. Fountain Green Rd Bel Air, MD 21015 410-569-1816 Lee Raber

Regency Limousine Service, Inc. 8403 Maymeadow Court Windsor Mill, MD 21244 410-655-0780 Melvin Scott Reliable Limousine 11941 Tech Road Silver Spring, MD 20904 301-622-5800 Allen Neufeld

The Limo Lady PO Box 20179 Baltimore, MD 21284 410-663-7000 Joanna Fridinger

Triangle Limousine, Inc. 350 Granary Road Forest Hill, MD 21050 410-877-0215 David Moore

Watkins Limousine 1 Contour Road Mt Airy, MD 21771 301-831-5466 Thomas Watkins

Victory Lane Limo 1525 Old Westminster Pike Westminster, MD 21157 410-848-8788 Roy Pool

Zbest Limousine Service, Inc. 6809 Ritchie Highway Glen Burnie, MD 21061 410-768-1148 George Rains

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TTY users: Call through Maryland Relay Fax: 410-887-3786

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health

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