

What Are SAFE HOMES?

The CAFY SAFE HOMES Program is a support network for Acton and Boxborough parents who are concerned about alcohol and drug use at pre-teen and teen parties and gatherings.

Families who join SAFE HOMES promise to provide a safe and supervised home for teen parties.

Why SAFE HOMES?

According to the Acton-Boxborough Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)...

- 63% of students in grades 9-12 have tried alcohol
- 30% have tried marijuana
- 29% in grades 9-12 and 42% in grade 12 have attended parties in homes where parents allowed liquor
- 23% in grades 9-12 and 44% in grade 12 have engaged in binge drinking in the past 12 months.

Parental supervision at teen events can help reduce the risk.

What Can I Do?

Parents have the most influence over whether or not their adolescents engage in risky behaviors.

Joining SAFE HOMES will...

- Remind your teens that you do not support underage alcohol consumption or illegal drug use.
- Help you feel more comfortable when your children attend parties at SAFE HOMES.
- Make it clear that you oppose anyone providing liquor to teens and that you expect parental supervision at teen parties.

Police Chiefs' Message

"The issue of underage drinking is a problem in our local communities, as it is in communities throughout the state.

One aspect of this problem is the fact that some parents in our communities host teen parties in their homes at which they allow the consumption of alcohol. The parents who do this have the misunderstanding that they are providing a safe environment for teens to engage in underage drinking.

Not only is this practice a serious violation of Massachusetts law, but we firmly believe it is putting our youth at risk.

We strongly encourage our parents to sign the CAFY Safe Homes Pledge."

- Chief Frank Widmayer,
Acton Chief of Police


- Chief Richard G. Vance, Jr.,
Boxborough Chief of Police



Endorsed by:

Acton-Boxborough School Committee
Acton-Boxborough Regional High School
R J Grey Junior High School
Acton-Boxborough Clergy Association
Acton-Boxborough United Way
Acton Board of Selectmen
Acton Board of Health
Acton Police Department
Acton Recreation Commission
Boxborough Board of Selectmen
Boxborough Board of Health
Boxborough Police Department
Boxborough Recreation Commission
Emerson Hospital

Funded by:

Community Health Network Area 15
 Emerson Hospital



- **Safe from Alcohol**
- **Safe from Drugs**
- **Safe from Weapons**

SAFE HOMES Pledge

When hosting teen parties or gatherings in my home...

- I will be present and visible.
- I will not serve or allow alcohol or drugs.
- I will call the parent of any teen possessing alcohol or drugs, or appearing to be under the influence.
- I will contact law enforcement and seek emergency medical care, if necessary.
- I will provide secure storage of firearms and hazardous items.

SAFE HOMES Directory

When you join SAFE HOMES, you'll be included in a directory with other SAFE HOMES families. You can use this directory to determine if your teen is invited to a party at a SAFE HOME.

Join SAFE HOMES Now!

Read the pledge, sign the non-legally binding agreement on the enclosed postcard, and return it to CAFY at PO Box 2063, Acton, MA 01720. If you need another copy of the pledge or more information, go to www.cafy.net.

It's the Law!

In Massachusetts, it's a crime with possibility of 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 it for anyone under 21.
- For anyone under 21 to purchase alcohol.
- To borrow an identification (ID) or to lie about one's age to purchase alcohol.
- To alter, transfer, or deface ID cards 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.