



choose to keep **your** freedom

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THE CHOICES YOU MAKE TODAY

MAY AFFECT YOU

FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

Making bad decisions can jeopardize your school activities, extracurricular sports and clubs, military, college admissions, and financial aid.

Penalties for breaking the law can include:

- Paying fines
- Loss of license and/or eligibility to get a license
- Permanent juvenile or criminal record
- Incarceration
- Commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS)

YOUR RECORD

- A criminal or juvenile record can prevent you from getting a job or joining the military.
- If you are 18 or older and commit a crime, you are considered an adult and you will be subject to adult penalties including the possibility of going to prison.
- If you are under 18 and commit a crime, you may be committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

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ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Using alcohol or other drugs is a decision that could result in a criminal record.

- Q** If I use someone else's license or other ID to buy alcohol, have I broken a law?
- A** Yes. It is a felony to have a fake or altered I.D. Penalties can include loss of driver's license, possible commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS), house of correction, or state prison.
- Q** What if I attend a party where there is underage drinking, but I don't drink any alcohol?
- A** You could still be charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol, even if you are not actually drinking or holding alcohol.
- Q** What if I have a party and underage guests (under the age of 21) bring alcohol?
- A** It is illegal to serve, provide, or furnish alcohol to underage guests, or allow them to drink alcohol in your home or on property you control. The penalty for you and your parents is a fine of up to \$2,000, incarceration for up to a year, or both. You and your parents could also be sued.
- Q** If I drive friends to a party and they put beer in my trunk, what can happen to me?
- A** It is illegal to transport alcohol if you are under the age of 21. If convicted, your driver's license will be suspended for 90 days. You could be fined and you will have a juvenile or criminal record.
- Q** What can happen if my friends are drinking in my car?
- A** You cannot allow people to drink in your car. If you and your friends are under 21 and they are drinking in your car, you are a minor transporting or possessing alcohol. If convicted, your driver's license will be suspended for 90 days. You could be fined and you may have a juvenile or criminal record.

THINK BEFORE YOU SEND!

The messages you send and images you post on the internet are not necessarily private. The information you post online or send via email, text, or instant message may end up in the hands of your family, friends, teachers, or even complete strangers, as well as possible employers, colleges, and law enforcement. Even if you delete something you posted or sent, it never really goes away.

THINK before you SEND!

Ask yourself, "Would I want this message or image sent to a lot of people?"

Once you hit SEND, you lose control.

Q What if my friend asks me to hold an illegal drug and I give it back to him later?

A Don't accept it! Once you accept it, you are in possession. Don't pass it on! If you pass it on to someone, you have distributed drugs knowingly and intentionally.

Q What if I give one of my prescription drugs or an illegal drug to another person?

A You do not have to sell drugs to be guilty of distribution. If you are found guilty of distributing on school grounds, you may face a mandatory sentence that includes commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) as a juvenile and to a house of correction or a state prison as an adult.

OTHER CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Q What if I put graffiti on a public building or private property?

A If you put graffiti on anyone else's property, public or private, you have committed the crime of tagging. If convicted, you may face possible incarceration for up to two years in a house of correction or a fine of at least \$1,500. In addition, your driver's license will be suspended for one year. If you do not have a license, you will have to wait an extra year to get one.

Q What if I bully or harass someone because I think they are different from me or my friends?

A This may be a hate crime. A hate crime is a criminal act against a person or property in which the perpetrator chooses the victim because of the victim's real or perceived race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or gender. There are a variety of penalties for this kind of conduct, including incarceration and commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

Did you know that...

sending threatening or harassing messages, by text, email or social media site, and/or posting and/or disseminating certain images including sexual, nude or partially nude images of yourself or someone else

...could be considered criminal.

You may be charged with a crime such as criminal harassment, threatening to commit a crime, or possession or distribution of child pornography. Penalties for these crimes can include incarceration or commitment to the Department of Youth Services (DYS).

For more information about prevention and treatment for substance misuse, contact:

Massachusetts Substance Abuse Information and Education Helpline

Toll-free: 1-800-327-5050

TTY: Use MassRelay at 711 or 1-800-439-2370

www.helpline-online.com

For additional copies of this pamphlet and other resources:

Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse

Toll-free: 1-800-952-6637

TTY: Use MassRelay at 711 or 1-800-439-2370

www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse

Developed by:

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www.mass.gov/dph/bsas

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www.mass.gov/essexda

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

www.doe.mass.edu/ssce/safety.html

Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

www.mass.gov/eopss

