

Underage Drinking

What Every Parent Should Know

...About Kansas Laws

The Risks

Unfortunately in Kansas the average age a child begins to drink alcohol is 12½, or somewhere in the sixth grade. Drinking at such an early age can often have lifelong consequences.

Kids who drink are more likely to be victims and/or perpetrators of violent crimes, have problems with school work and school conduct, are more likely to become sexually active at earlier ages and have a higher chance of being injured or die from vehicle crashes, drowning, fire, suicide and homicide.

The Solution

As a parent, you have the single greatest influence on your child's life. Research shows that parents who set clear, realistic expectations for their children and establish appropriate consequences for breaking rules and consistently enforce them, will significantly reduce their children's chances of being involved with alcohol and drugs.

The Laws

Knowing the laws in regards to underage drinking in Kansas can be a good first step for parents.

K.S.A. 21-3610 Furnishing alcohol to a minor

Directly or indirectly, selling to, buying for, giving or furnishing any alcoholic liquor to any minor is a class B person misdemeanor for which the minimum fine is \$200.

K.S.A. 41-727 Purchase or consumption of alcohol by a minor

No person under 21 years of age shall possess, consume, obtain, purchase or attempt to obtain or purchase alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage. Violation by a person 18 or more years of age but less than 21 years of age is a class C misdemeanor for which the minimum fine is \$200. Any person less than 18 years of age who violates this section is a juvenile offender under the Kansas juvenile justice code.

The Help

The Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free is a program of Kansas Family Partnership in cooperation with state agencies and community groups working to reduce underage drinking in Kansas. The Leadership has FREE information on how to open the conversation with your child on the issues of alcohol. Call us today to receive a copy of "Make A Difference: Talk to Your Child About Alcohol."

**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**
Talk With Kids About Alcohol

1-800-206-7231
www.kansasfamily.com

