

SAFE HOMES PARENTS NETWORK

"Parents, guardians, and community working together for drug-free youth."

PARENT INFORMATION

What is the SAFE Homes Parents Network?

It is an early prevention program for all parents/guardians. It is designed to work, if your child is in pre-kindergarten or the twelfth grade, by providing a way for parents to talk together and agree with each other on solutions and expectations for their children and their children's friends.

If my children are only in elementary school, why should I join?

Ideally prevention starts **BEFORE** a child goes to school. Children always need to know exactly what their parents expect of them. Parents can do this by making clear, consistent rules and consequences while the children are still young and willing to listen and follow directions. Parents have a **RIGHT** and **RESPONSIBILITY** to know where their children are, whom they are with, what they are doing, and when they are expected to return home, regardless of their age. Discuss early and often with your children the expectation that there will be "**NO USE**" of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by your children or their friends.

Is there a cost to join SAFE Homes or be a member?

No! It is a free program open to any adult who signs the *SAFE Homes Pledge*, and lives by this agreement in their home.

Why should I join?

Joining *SAFE Homes* lets your children know that you care about where they are going, whom they are with, what they will be doing, and when they are expected to return home. It helps parents to establish a clear consistent "**NO-USE**" message about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Your children should know that you are talking with other parents and that the parents have agreed on similar rules and guidelines for their children.

What does being a member of SAFE Homes do for me?

It gives you an opportunity to talk with other parents and gain support for the decisions you agree on together. Your children will know that parents are working together and talking regularly to each other. Parents will know what is going on with their children and their children's friends.

What am I expected to do as a member of SAFE Homes?

Parents are expected to talk with their children about the pledge. Explain why you feel it is important to be a member of the *SAFE Homes Parents Network*. Get to know the parents of your children's ten best friends by calling them. Tell them about the *SAFE Homes Pledge*, and why you think it is important. Talk to them about common concerns, and your desire to **work together** with them to provide safe, healthy, drug-free environments for all of your children.

SAFE HOMES PARENTS NETWORK

"Parents, guardians, and community working together for drug-free youth."

PARENT INFORMATION

(continued)

Who will know I am a member or have my phone number?

The *SAFE Homes* project coordinator and member parents, who have also signed the pledge, will have your name and phone number. However, your phone number is never given out unless you have first signed the approval to do so on the *SAFE Homes Pledge* form.

If I sign the Pledge, does it mean I can't have alcohol in my home?

The Pledge states you will not allow anyone under 21 to have alcohol in your home or on your property. If you are over 21, a good role model, and practice low-risk use, it is your decision. Insist that all youth wait to make this important decision until they are 21.

What should I do if I find out about someone selling/serving a minor?

Inform the local law enforcement agency, the *SAFE Homes* chairperson, or call the MIP HOTLINE at 393-4444 or toll free at 1-866-4445 as soon as possible. It is manned 24 hours by volunteers and the information is confidential.

***The SAFE HOMES pledge is NOT a legally binding contract.
It is an "Agreement" between the network of parents.***