



THE SAFEHOMES PROGRAM

PAWS PTO

SafeHomes offers an opportunity for parents to join together to help provide a safer environment for our children by creating an atmosphere where alcohol and drug use is not acceptable. No responsible and informed adult can deny that the use of alcohol and drugs pose a real and unacceptable danger for our teens. When parents join together and take a united stand against alcohol and drug use, they become much more effective than if they act separately.

SafeHomes Parents agree that we will support the following guidelines:

- We will communicate a clear, consistent message that alcohol and other drug use is not acceptable.
- We will not allow parties in our own home when we are not present.
- We will not allow the illegal use of alcohol or other drugs in our home or on our property.
- We will communicate with other parents.
- We will support school and law enforcement policy regarding the use of alcohol and other drugs.

ARS 4-244.9

In Arizona it is a Class I Misdemeanor (the highest) for any person to supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. The penalties are up to \$2500 in fines and/or six months in jail. A person is also civilly responsible for the actions of the person he or she has supplied with alcohol.

ARS 4-241.G

Arizona legislation allows the suspension of the driver's license of an adult who provides access to alcohol to underage persons.

What is required if I sign the SafeHomes Pledge?

You will supervise social gatherings at your home and forbid the use of alcohol and other drugs. You are not obligated to work, volunteer, or attend meetings. Just follow the pledge. If you choose, your name may be distinguished in the Horizon Families Directory with a "home" symbol as a SafeHomes Parent. The pledge is renewed on an annual basis.

What if a family signs, and then violates, the pledge?

The SafeHomes Program is a voluntary program and those who sign it are pledging on their personal honor to abide by it. SafeHomes contracts are not legally binding, but are statements of concern and intent. Parent groups, schools and parents are not able to guarantee or enforce compliance by others.

What about the teens that choose to drink anyway regardless of the SafeHomes Program?

We cannot stop all kids from drinking. Our goal is to do three things:

- Provide a safe social environment for teens in our own homes.
- Send a clear, unambiguous message to our children and all teens that we care about them.
- Inform other parents that if their children come to our home they will be supervised and that alcohol and other drug use will not be tolerated.

(OVER)

What if I feel that young people should be allowed to drink alcohol if they are properly supervised?

You are perfectly free to choose not to sign the SafeHomes Pledge. You should not feel pressure to join if you plan to serve alcohol to teens. We feel, however, that you should know several things:

- Research shows that adults who were “taught to drink responsibly” as teens grow up to have as many alcohol related problems as adults who were not allowed to drink at all as teens...there is no advantage to “teaching” them to drink.
- Physically and psychologically the adolescent is much more vulnerable to the effects of alcohol than mature adults. Young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who begin drinking at age 21.
- Arizona State law states unequivocally that it is illegal to provide alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age – even in your own home, even with their parent’s permission.

In order to be designated a SafeHomes Parent in the **Horizon Family Directory** you must fill out and submit the Directory Form no later than **September 8, 2011**. Please be sure to sign the line on the Directory Form that indicates that you would like to be designated a SafeHomes Parent.

THE SAFEHOMES PLEDGE

I pledge to provide a SafeHome...

- I will not serve alcohol nor will I allow youth under the legal drinking age of 21 to consume alcohol or use drugs in my home or on my property.
- I will not allow unsupervised parties in my home.
- I will monitor alcohol and over-the-counter and prescription drugs in my home and provide secure storage for firearms and other potentially hazardous items.
- I wish for communication with any parent who personally observes my child using alcohol or other drugs.
- I will communicate with any SafeHomes Parent of a child I personally observe using alcohol or other drugs.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____



DATE _____

(This contract is yours to keep and to refer to as needed.)

Report Underage Drinking Violations

Phoenix Police Department Violation in progress: 602-262-6151

Phoenix Police Department Youth Alcohol Squad / Recent or Potential Violations: 602-534-0815

Scottsdale Police Department: 480-312-5000

Scottsdale Police Department Party Patrol: 480-312-9999

The SafeHomes Program is sponsored by the PAWS PTO.

Questions? Contact us at paws-pt@horizonboosterclub.com.