

In 2011-12, the villages of Oak Park and River Forest, along with both police departments and IMP.A.C.T, Parents and Community Together to Reduce Youth Drug and Alcohol Use, worked together to pass new local ordinances that address the ongoing problem with youth drug and alcohol use.

While it is still illegal for minors to use tobacco, marijuana and alcohol, the consequences under the new ordinances are less punitive and more rehabilitative. The goal is to improve our youths' futures... not impede them. Here are some highlights:

Use or possession of an illegal substance by a minor

The police now have the option to issue a citation for a local ordinance violation – like a traffic ticket – rather than charge the youth with a misdemeanor. This violation does not create a criminal record and is generally not required to be reported to employers or on college applications.

Local adjudication

Rather than be prosecuted through the Circuit Court of Cook County, violators will be required to appear in front of an administrative law judge at Village Hall accompanied by their parent or guardian. The adjudicator will hear the offender's story and assign one or more of the following: an education program, counseling, community service and/or a fine.

Early intervention tool

The new process will give parents information about their child's behavior, help them assess the level of use and connect them with appropriate supports and interventions.

This brochure contains a brief outline of the ordinances.

For more information call 708-386-3800 in Oak Park, or 708-366-7125 in River Forest.

Resources

OPRFHS Substance Abuse Prevention
Gladys Wright
708-434-3615
gwright@oprfs.org

Oak Park Police Dept.
Youth Services Division
708-386-3800
police@oak-park.us

Thrive Counseling
Center of OP & RF
Katherine Goldberg
708-383-7500
kgoldberg@thrivecc.org

Rosecrance
888-928-5278 24/7
www.rosecrance.org

Network of Care
cmbh.networkofcare.org

Youth Services of Oak Park & River Forest Townships
John Williams, Bert Patania
faceit@oakparktownship.org
708-445-2727

River Forest Police Dept.
708-366-7125
crime@vrf.us

Community Mental Health
Board of OP Township
Lisa DeVivo
708-358-8855 x101
ldevivo@cmhb-oakpark.org

Alanon/Alateen
Tom T., 708-524-9460
www.thrivecc.org

Partnership for
a Drug Free America
www.drugfree.org

Join IMP.A.C.T. today!

Join IMP.A.C.T. and receive monthly e-mails informing you of events, local resources and tips to help your child avoid drug & alcohol use. Simply e-mail us at impactopr@gmail.com. If you are interested in becoming more involved, we would welcome your input and talents. Indicate that in your e-mail as well. Together, we can make a difference!

IMP.A.C.T. (Parents And Community Together to reduce youth drug and alcohol use) is a grassroots organization committed to making the community aware of the realities of teen drug and alcohol use and to reducing that use by collaborating with those in the community who have influence over our youth.

impact

Parents And Community Together
to reduce youth alcohol & drug use

Your Teens, Partying & The Law

What You Need to Know

This brochure has been created by
IMP.A.C.T. in partnership with the Police
Departments of Oak Park and River Forest

Tobacco

Possession of smoking and chewing tobacco by a minor is prohibited by state and local law and can now result in a citation or ticket for a local ordinance violation.

If a minor receives a citation (ticket):

- ▶ Parent(s) and or guardians will be notified.
- ▶ The tobacco products will be confiscated and destroyed.
- ▶ The youth and a parent or guardian will be required to appear at a hearing at the appropriate Village Hall.
- ▶ The administrative law judge will issue a penalty.

Penalties may include, but are not limited to:

- ▶ Placement in smoking cessation classes or similar training to educate and deter future use
- ▶ Community service
- ▶ Fines of up to \$750

Alcohol/Marijuana

It is illegal to possess or use marijuana or drug paraphernalia, and for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol. Police can now cite minors with a local ordinance violation rather than a misdemeanor for alcohol offenses and for marijuana possession of under 30 grams. **And in Oak Park, it is now an offense for a minor to be present at a party where marijuana and/or alcohol are openly being used by other minors (even if he or she is not consuming.)**

If a minor is caught violating the ordinance:

- ▶ Parent(s) and or guardians will be notified.
- ▶ A ticket will be issued.
- ▶ Alcohol, marijuana and/or marijuana paraphernalia will be confiscated.
- ▶ The youth's school will be notified.
- ▶ The youth and a parent will be required to appear at a hearing at the appropriate Village.
- ▶ The administrative law judge will make a judgment and when applicable, mandate a fine or refer the child to the Oak Park and River Forest Township Youth Services for an assessment and recommended education or therapy.
- ▶ The family must provide proof to the court of fulfilling any recommended education, community service or therapy.

Penalties may include but are not limited to:

- ▶ Placement in program or therapy to educate and deter future use
- ▶ Community service
- ▶ Fines of up to \$750

Social Hosting

Under new Social Hosting Laws in Oak Park and River Forest, Police can charge anyone hosting an event where underage persons are consuming or in possession of alcohol or marijuana, if they knew or should have known the illegal substances were present. Adults and/or minors can be charged whether the event was in their home or at an off-site venue, such as a hotel.

Reasonable steps hosts can take to avoid being cited:

- ▶ Control minor access to alcohol at any event or party
- ▶ Verify attendee's age by inspecting ID's
- ▶ Adult supervision of the event or party
- ▶ Call for police assistance
- ▶ Terminate the event if unable to prevent minors from consuming
- ▶ Notify police in advance if they will be absent and ask for monitoring

Penalties may include, but are not limited to:

Oak Park

- ▶ Fine of \$50 - \$750

River Forest

- ▶ 1st offense: Fine of \$250 - \$750 or 40 hours community service plus \$50 minimum fine
- ▶ 2nd offense within 12 months: Fine of \$500 - \$750
- ▶ 3rd+ offense within 12 months: Minimum fine of \$750