

Alcohol- It's Out There: Social Challenges and Legal Consequences
Panel Discussion: Dr. John Moran, Dr. Rob Furey, Judge Joe Briscoe
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Welcome and Introductions

Dr. John Moran- Principal of St. Louis University High School. Spoke to role of high school principals.

1. Create a drug free zone on campus, preparing students for the work space of his/her future. No alcohol allowed in school/work place. Techniques to assure safe zone: Code of conduct, drug/alcohol testing, dogs, breathalyzer, police presence.

***If using at school, it is a MAJOR cry for help. The majority of the time, the kid's friends will get the user help. A friend will recognize that a student is struggling with alcohol and tell friends, teacher, counselor, parent.

2. Education- teaching kids how to make good choices, smart decision making, wellness, through presentations, theology classes. Discuss repercussions of use/misuse of alcohol.

3. Home- parents discuss home as a safe zone and teach kids about alcohol. Send same message as school.

4. It is important to ask your school what is the message regarding alcohol? policies? do they teach about it in classes? Contact school to find out message? Is there congruency?

5. Have an ongoing dialog with your kid- responsible uses. At home parents can use a combination method of discussion and demonstration. What message are you sending? Kids are watching you ALL the time. Be clear on what message you are sending to kids.

6. School can only really discuss and teach with books. Real life is after school.

7. Call other parents. Check with them. Ask the questions. Is the message at the other parent's house the same as your own? Make the call.

8. With teenagers, believe half of what they say and then check your facts.

9. If there is a misuse of alcohol outside of school, a school will get involved if the reputation of the school is brought into question (report in the newspaper). There is a blurring of home/school boundary.

10. The school has a right to search locker/car on their private property. If hear about someone having alcohol at school, will ask student to check locker or car. Students will usually deny, until found out.

11. Negotiation of spaces between the safe zone of home and school.

12. Ask the questions. Where are you going? Who are you going with? Help them to manage that space of their free time.

13. Two issues: How to get it? (older siblings, stealing, irresponsible vendors) Where to use it? Limit these issues to prevent.

Dr. Rob Furey

1. Alcohol does different things to different people. Some kids- easy to resist, no real temptations. Keep an eye on them. Other kid- intoxicating elixir. Some kids are harder than others.

2. Age appropriate freedom based on trust. Analogy of fishing- let the line out, pull back in and check line, let it out again.

3. You can't stop kid from drinking, nobody can, but you can make it as difficult as possible. Do not enable the process.

4. Moderation/restriction- addictions start in adolescents.

5. What do you overlook in a situation? What don't you see? What don't you want to know?

6. Kids caught drinking- usually a cry for help- not discipline. Apply intellect to situation

7. Car/room search- if just cause. Tell them you will be searching their private space. Don't do it behind the kid's back.

8. Tell if family addiction to alcohol. Tell them that it is NOT an even playing field in terms of the response to alcohol if you have an alcoholic in the family. Addictions tend to cluster- alcohol, pot, porn...etc.
9. Amnesty- pick up kid, no questions asked. Make sure that kid doesn't take advantage of this option. Be the parent, not an enabler.
10. Alcohol and drug use increase in times of transition. Keep an eye open for any changes, clues as to alcohol use. Educate yourself. Know your kid. Ask the questions.
11. Consequences- grounding- be careful- gets angry kids angrier. Try to have kid work his way out of a problem. Give him a job/physical labor. Working way out of trouble instead of waiting way out of trouble.
12. Parent drinking- responsible drinking. Role model responsible drinking. You are an adult. You have earned the right to drink. Do it responsibly. Moderation.
13. What are you looking for with an alcohol problem- stumbling, red eyes, sniff test with a kiss goodnight, grades dropping, change in mood, grandiose behavior, increase in anger/temper (similar to normal aspects of adolescents, but more pronounced- change for your child) If you suspect, ASK.
14. Ask kids if anyone drinks at their school. Go from very broad and then narrow it down to asking if he/she drinks, make it more personal.

Judge Joe Briscoe

1. Underage drinking means anyone drinking who is not 21. Legally- minors if under 18. If a kid is caught with alcohol, there is uncertainty as to charge based on situation- charge, court, state, county, municipal. Juvenile court- mostly have to attend an alcohol awareness program with no public record of incident.
2. Any person under 21 who purchases or has in his possession or visibly intoxicated (.02 blood alcohol level) violates ordinance- misdemeanor
3. Possession- requires knowledge- knew alcohol was there. Minor in possession- state law- \$1000 & 6 months in jail. City law- \$500 & 90 days in jail. Drivers license suspended if alcohol in car. 2nd offense can be up to 1 year in jail. All depends on situation and court/judge.
4. Criminal charges- if you provide alcohol to a minor, any person who is not parent/guardian guilty of giving alcohol -\$1000 & 6 mo in jail. If you knowingly allow minors to drink alcohol on your property- \$500 & 30 days in jail. Unlawful to give alcohol to minor or allow it to happen in your house.
5. Where do they get it? Home. Garage raids- steal it out of people's garage refrigerators.
6. Civil penalty- if you give alcohol to someone and he/she drives and does damage to self or others what is liability? could be charged as social host- liable for damages. Don't be the one to have new law written for your case.

Questions

1. Why do kids drink? Peer pressure very strong agent for kids- Give your kids an excuse NOT TO DRINK. "my parents will ground me...face the consequences whatever they may be."
Can be an emerging coping skill to social anxiety- awkward stage. Alcohol may seem to work and help the kid to cope with new situations. Need to develop other ways to deal with life's difficulties.
*Message from media- young adults should be drinking and having sex- Managing that "space between" the safe zones. The media and culture are sending a message that is drastically different from parents and school.
2. Signs of addiction- secrecy, withdrawal, mood swings. No locks on doors of kid's room
3. Ask at colleges, what is alcohol policy, reporting to parents.

4. Binge drinking- be aware! Loss of control, blackouts, passing out

5. Engage in dialog- ask questions. What is going on at school? Be a good role model.