

**I**n 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](mailto: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