



Queen Anne's County SafeHomes Pledge Program

Dear Queen Anne's County Parents/Guardian,

The youth of our county face many difficult challenges in resisting the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. The results of the 2007 Maryland Adolescent Survey showed that not only are the county's high school youth using cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, ecstasy and inhalants — they are doing so at rates frequently *higher* than the state average.

To address this public health and safety issue, the Queen Anne's County Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Services, QAC Council of Parent Teacher Organizations, QAC Public Schools, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Alliance to Reduce Alcohol Abuse-SAFE Youth Campaign and the QAC Drug-Free Coalition has formed the QAC SafeHomes Program. In the QAC SafeHomes Program, families pledge to create healthy homes where underage use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs is not tolerated.

The information on the following pages includes

- Frequently Asked Questions about SafeHomes Program
- Information on Youth Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use in Queen Anne's County
- The QAC SafeHomes Program Pledge postcard

We ask that you complete the pledge card by signing up @ zoomerang <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AQFDSQLQ2> or on the QAC Board of Education web site <http://qacps.schoolwires.net/qacps/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=278946> under "**HEADLINES**" on the right side click on "Take the Pledge." mail it back to the Prevention Office, or download the pledge at <http://www.communitypartnerships.info/announcements.htm> (click on or scroll down to "SafeHomes" ad) and email it to kewright@dhhm.state.md.us. Pledge families can choose to be included in the QAC SafeHomes Parent Network Directory which will be compiled and distributed via email to member families. Only families that have signed the QAC SafeHomes Pledge will receive the directory. Additionally, QAC SafeHomes Program families will receive a quarterly newsletter with program updates and the latest parent information on youth substance use.

As sponsors of the QAC SafeHomes Program, we invite you to become part of this important initiative:
Working together we can keep our children healthy and safe.

Dr. Carol Williamson
Superintendent
Queen Anne's County
Public Schools

Chinnadurai Devadason, MD, MPH
Health Officer
QAC Department of Health

Suzanne Hogan
Director
QAC Public Schools, Alliance to
Reduce Alcohol Abuse –SAFE
Youth Campaign

Kathy Wright, MHS, LCADC
Prevention Coordinator
QAC Department of Health
QAC Drug Free Coalition

Kathy Terry
Advisor,
QACHS, Students Against
Destructive Decisions

Leanna Boyer
Advisor,
KIHS Students Against
Destructive Decisions



Frequently Asked Questions About The SafeHomes Pledge (page 2)

What are the Benefits to Signing the Pledge?

By signing the SafeHomes Pledge you can:

- Protect your children more effectively by joining forces with other parents.
- Use the pledge to clearly communicate family expectations and limits around youth substance use.
- Create a healthy community where underage use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs is no longer the “norm.”

Families who sign the pledge also:

- Receive a copy of the QAC SafeHomes Parent Network Directory allowing you to communicate with other like-minded parents.
- Receive quarterly newsletters with updates on the SafeHomes Program and the latest parenting information about youth substance use.

What if a family signs and then violates the Pledge?

The SafeHomes Pledge 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. The QAC SafeHomes Program is not able to guarantee or enforce compliance by others.

What about the teens that choose to use illegal substances regardless of the SafeHomes Pledge?

We cannot stop all kids from smoking, drinking or doing drugs. That is not the goal of SafeHomes. We wish to do three things:

1. Provide a safe social environment for youth in OUR OWN HOMES.
2. Send a clear, unambiguous message to our children and all local youth that we care about them.
3. Inform other parents that if their children come to our home, they will be supervised and that underage use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs will not be tolerated.

The Pledge

- I will provide adult supervision for all children visiting my home.
- I will provide a secure storage place for all forms of tobacco, alcohol, firearms and other potentially hazardous items.
- I will not allow parties or gatherings for minors in my home when I am not there.
- I will not serve nor will I allow youth under the legal drinking (21) or smoking (18) age to consume alcohol or use tobacco or other drugs in my home or on my property.
- I wish for communication with any parent who personally observes my child using tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.
- I will communicate with any SafeHomes parent of a child I personally observe using tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs.

I PLEDGE TO PROVIDE A SAFEHOME

- I WILL PROVIDE ADULT SUPERVISION FOR ALL CHILDREN VISITING MY HOME.
- I WILL PROVIDE A SECURE STORAGE PLACE FOR ALL FORMS OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND OTHER POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS ITEMS.
- I WILL NOT ALLOW PARTIES OR GATHERINGS FOR MINORS IN MY HOME WHEN I AM NOT THERE.
- I WILL NOT SERVE OR ALLOW YOUTH UNDER THE LEGAL DRINKING (21) OR SMOKING (18) AGE TO CONSUME ALCOHOL OR USE TOBACCO OR OTHER DRUGS IN MY HOME OR ON MY PROPERTY.
- I WISH FOR COMMUNICATION WITH ANY PARENT WHO PERSONALLY OBSERVES MY CHILD USING ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR OTHER DRUGS.
- I WILL COMMUNICATE WITH ANY SAFEHOMES PARENT OF A CHILD I PERSONALLY OBSERVE USING ALCOHOL, TOBACCO OR OTHER DRUGS.

NAME: (PLEASE PRINT) _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ SCHOOL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Yes No I give permission to have my name, school affiliation and phone number included in the QAC SafeHomes Directory that will be distributed at no cost to all persons who participate.

Please mail, or email to kewright@dhhm.state.md.us or complete on the BOE web site <http://gacps.schoolwires.net/gacps/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=278946> & go **“Headlines”** & click on **“Take the SafeHomes Pledge,”** or visit zoomerang @ <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AQFDSQLO2> to sign the pledge

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**SAFEHOMES PROGRAM
C/O PREVENTION OFFICE
Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services
Queen Anne's County Health Dept.
206 N. Commerce Street
Centreville, MD 21617**

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