

Dear Parents,



Every year, the police department receives calls reporting minor juvenile issues. To kids, these may seem like harmless pranks done in fun. However, many of these activities can lead to civil or criminal liability, or personal injury. **Please talk to your children.**

Let them know that the following activities are not acceptable and, if reported to the police, may result in criminal charges.

1. Vandalism.
2. Writing graffiti or damaging property.
3. Trespassing
4. Smoking
5. Speeding or "hot-rodding"
6. Stealing

Below are some Kid Smarts! to help you talk to your kids of all ages.

Vandalism, theft, assault and harassment are crimes.

Did you know? If you commit a crime, you could go to court, pay a fine, and do community service. You will also be responsible for paying for any damage you cause.

Throwing rocks at homes, cars, or people could hurt someone or damage their property.

- ✿ If you hurt someone or damage property, even if it is an accident, this is a crime.

Treat Others Nicely

You may not always get along with others, but never hit or push. Don't tease other people. Talk to an adult if you are having problems with someone.

Trespassing is a crime

Going on someone else's property when told not to or against posted signage is illegal. Using a pool on private property where you don't live is trespassing.

Grffiti is vandalism!

Did you know? If you write or paint graffiti on anything, you are committing a crime. It is very expensive to remove graffiti.

Theft: It is illegal to take or keep something that doesn't belong to you! Did you know that if you find something and don't turn it in to police, this is considered stealing, too? You wouldn't want someone to take your property, so don't take anything that doesn't belong to you!

Speeding: The speed limit in residential areas is **30 mph, unless otherwise posted.** Car crashes are the leading cause of death for kids and teens. Speeding, not paying attention, and driver inexperience are the main causes of teen crashes. Please slow down and protect yourself, your friends, and others.

If you are under 18, it is illegal for you to smoke.
If you are under 21, it is illegal for you to drink or even possess alcohol.

In addition, police often get calls from concerned citizens about children being left home alone or playing unsupervised. Here are some guidelines for parents, from Hennepin County Child Protection Services.

If a child is improperly left alone, the child can be taken into protective custody by police and the parents can be charged with a crime.

Please keep your children safe!

Home Alone Guidelines

- ☀ Children under the age of 8 may not be left alone. They must be supervised by an adult or child age 11 or older.
- ☀ Age 8 or 9 may be left alone for normal latchkey hours (up to 2 hours)
- ☀ Age 10-13 may be left unattended up to 12 hours
- ☀ Age 14-17 may be left unattended up to 24 hours
- ☀ No child under 11 should babysit younger children

Guidelines apply unless the child does not know how to reach parents, the child is afraid, the child's basic needs are not met, the child has disabilities, or the child is involved in dangerous activities.

Curfew Ordinance

Under 12:

Weekdays: Home by 9:00 PM

Weekends: Home by 10:00 PM

12-14:

Weekdays: Home by 10:00 PM

Weekends: Home by 11:00 PM

15-17:

Weekdays: Home by 11:00 PM

Weekends: Home by midnight

Did you know? There is a Curfew Ordinance in effect for children under the age of 18! Children must be home during the following hours. There are some exceptions to the curfew ordinance, such as older children going to and from work, school, or church functions or running errands at the direction of a parent. The curfew is lifted at 5:00 AM, seven days a week.

Are you having problems with your teen?

If you are having issues with your teenager (getting into fights, hanging out with the wrong crowd, “drifting away”, getting involved in minor crime, like shoplifting), the Northern Star Diversion and Referral program is an option. It is a 5-week course to help kids get back on the right track. For more information, call 763-231-7242 or go to www.juvenilediversion.org.

Other programs of interest for neighborhoods:

Neighborhood Watch: Find out how you can create a partnership between police and your neighborhood to help neighbors come together, watch out for each other, report suspicious activity to the police, and make their community safer. For information on starting a Neighborhood Watch group, call 763-509-5198.

Night to Unite! (formerly National Night Out): Every year, the first Tuesday in August is a chance for neighbors to come together and throw crime a going away party! To be on the mailing list for Night to Unite, or to register your party, call 763-509-5198.

