

Prom Season 2014



Cab Ride Home

Parent Guide & Pledge Book

Baltimore County Department of Health



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Baltimore County Department of Health is pleased to present Baltimore County's 2014 *Safe & Sober Prom Season Parent Guide & Pledge Book*. This booklet contains information on underage drinking, young driver safety, consequences of providing alcohol to minors, and suggestions for parents who would like to support after-prom activities at their child's school.

Additionally, this booklet contains the names of local limousine and bus companies who have signed the *Baltimore County Safe and Sober Pledge*, thereby, agreeing not to allow minors to use tobacco, alcohol, or any other drugs while using their transportation services. Please note that as of January 2014, the listed companies also meet the minimum safety requirements of the Maryland Public Service Commission. We strongly encourage parents to patronize such businesses that have made a commitment to the health and safety of our youth, and to visit the Commission's web site at www.psc.state.md.us when hiring transportation service, to verify that their selected company remains in good standing.

Thank you for making use of this booklet during this prom and graduation season, and for helping us work towards our vision of healthy people living, working, and playing in Baltimore County.

Sincerely,



Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Health Officer

Know the Facts about Underage Drinking and Drug Use

- Underage drinking can lead to severe and tragic consequences including car crashes, injuries, rape, sexual assault, suicide, pregnancy, academic failure, alcohol poisoning, alcoholism, potentially irreversible brain damage, and death.
- Individuals who begin drinking before age 15 are five times more likely to become dependent on alcohol than are those who begin drinking after age 21.
- One-fourth of 16–20 year old drivers who die in crashes have high blood alcohol concentrations. The risk of a crash is substantially higher when teens drive after drinking. This is true even for low and moderate blood alcohol concentrations, possibly because teens are also less experienced drivers.
- The results of the Maryland State Department of Education's most recent Adolescent Survey indicate that of Baltimore County 12th grade students:
 - **71%** had tried alcohol, **46%** in the past month.
 - **45%** had smoked marijuana, **24%** in the past month.
 - **32%** had tried smoking cigarettes, **18%** smoked cigarettes in the past month.
- The Survey also indicates that of 12th grade students in the state of Maryland:
 - **19%** had driven at least once after consuming one to four drinks.
 - **11%** had driven after having five or more drinks.
 - **39%** reported they had been a passenger with a drinking driver.
 - **10%** had driven under the influence of marijuana once or twice.
 - **11%** had driven under the influence of marijuana on three or more occasions.

Encourage Young Driver Safety

What Parents CAN do...

- **Limit the number of teen passengers in your young driver's car to one or zero.**

The presence of one teen passenger nearly doubles the risk of a fatal crash. Having two or more teen passengers increases the risk of having a fatal crash nearly five times as much as compared to driving alone.

- **Set a good example. Always wear your seat belt and insist your young driver do the same.**

In 2008, more than half of teen drivers fatally injured in crashes were not wearing seat belts.

- **Discourage distractions and risky behaviors for your teen driver.**

Distractions are a major cause of young driver crashes. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that 61% of 16 and 17 year-olds admitted risky driving habits. Of those drivers:

- 28% sent text messages while driving
- 31% talked on cell phones while driving
- 35% drove with their friends in the car
- 24% exceeded the speed limit by 10 miles per hour or more

NOTE: In the State of Maryland, the handheld use of a cell phone by any driver is a primary offense. Furthermore, it is illegal for drivers under 18 to use any wireless communication device (e.g. Bluetooth, iPod, cell phone, etc.) while driving, except to make an emergency 911 call. They may lose their driving privilege for up to 90 days for this offense. The law prohibits all drivers from using a text messaging device to read, write, or send a text message while operating a motor vehicle. Violations may result in fines and points.

- **Parents are the most important influence on their teen when it comes to risky behaviors including substance abuse and driving.**

Improve your teen's health and safety by discussing the dangers of drugs and alcohol, setting a good example behind the wheel, and establishing driving rules and consequences early*. Teach them to eliminate distractions when operating a motor vehicle and warn them of the dangers of riding with impaired or distracted drivers.

**High school students are more likely to drink and smoke cigarettes and marijuana in the month immediately after getting their driver's license.*

For more information on young driver safety, visit
http://mhso.mva.maryland.gov/SafetyPrograms/program_young_drivers.htm

Understand the Laws Regarding Underage Drinking

It is **illegal** for an adult to host an underage drinking party or to purchase alcohol for persons under 21 years of age, even with their parents' permission.

An adult found guilty of providing alcohol for an individual under 21 (other than their own child) is subject to a \$2,500 fine for the first offense and \$5,000 fine for each subsequent offense for each underage person. Hosting an underage drinking party for 10 minors could result in fines totaling \$25,000.

Adults who provide alcohol to individuals under 21 can be sued if the youth hurts someone, damages property, or is involved in a car crash.

Maryland law states that persons under 21 who operate a vehicle with any trace of alcohol in their system are subject to license suspension for one year.

Tips for Parents

Parents can protect themselves and their teens by following these guidelines when hosting parties for their children:

- Plan alcohol-free activities in your home and make teens feel welcome. Make sure no one brings alcohol onto your property.
- Be home when your child has a party.
- Get to know the parents of your child's friends. Invite them to chaperone.
- Help your teenager plan the party. Avoid sending e-mail invitations that can easily be forwarded to others.
- Limit guests to certain areas of your home. Let them know that if they leave the party, they cannot return.
- Monitor the party without being conspicuous (e.g., replenish snacks, etc.).
- Provide plenty of food and nonalcoholic beverages.
- Report underage drinking to your local precinct.

Support Your Teen's After-Prom Activity

Exciting events such as senior prom are often followed by “high-risk” behavior, including drinking, drug-use, sexual activity, and driving carelessly. Adolescents may see these behaviors as acceptable ways to make the evening more memorable.

After-prom events are designed to offer a safe, tobacco-, drug- and alcohol-free activity as an alternative to high-risk activities.

Assist your child with his/her after-prom plan:

- Encourage your child to attend the after-prom party planned by the PTSA or school's After-Prom Committee and to stay at the party until it ends.
- Know how your child will get home from the party. (The Limousine will take them to the prom and after-prom site, but will not wait until the party is over unless you've made those arrangements.) Parents not picking up their child after the event may want to drop off a car at the after-prom activity site.
- Encourage your child to take a change of clothes with them, so they can change at the party if they will be uncomfortable in their formal wear.

Support the event:

A successful after-prom event must include a variety of activities for students to encourage them to stay throughout the night. Planners must provide enough entertainment, food, incentives, music, games, etc. to accomplish this, which is costly. Contact your child's school about the event if you haven't yet received information from the PTSA or After-Prom Chairperson. Ask them how you can help support the activity.

For sources of information presented in this publication, please contact the Bureau of Behavioral Health at 410-887-3828

SAFE & SOBER TRANSPORTATION COMPANY PLEDGE

Every year, the Baltimore County Department of Health encourages limousine owners/operators to sign the “Safe and Sober Pledge”. Below is the text of the agreement, which the companies have signed, and pledge to follow.

The Baltimore County Safe and Sober Transportation Company Pledge is part of a voluntary program aimed at protecting the lives of young people during the prom and graduation season. Since this is a voluntary program, all companies that sign the Safe and Sober Transportation Pledge are encouraged to adhere to the spirit and guidelines of the program.

The Baltimore County Department of Health, the Limousine Association of Maryland, and the Baltimore County Public School System are working together to ensure that the guidelines of this program are followed.

If a transportation company owner signs the pledge and does not follow these guidelines, this oversight group has the authority to suspend or terminate the transportation company from the Safe and Sober Pledge program.

The following guidelines will be adhered to by this company and its operators for prom-related events:

- *Tobacco products will not be used or transported by minors in our vehicles.*
- *Alcohol will not be supplied or transported in our vehicles.*
- *Alcohol use will not be allowed in our vehicles.*
- *Illegal drug use or possession will not be permitted.*
- *Companies should monitor what passengers bring into vehicles.*
- *Vehicles should be checked each time passengers depart from the vehicle.*
- *Appropriate number of staff should be provided to properly monitor the passengers.*

We have read the Baltimore County Safe and Sober Transportation Pledge and agree that our company and its operators will adhere to the spirit and guidelines of the program. We understand that if our transportation company violates any of the guidelines of the program that we may face suspension and possible termination from the Baltimore County Safe and Sober Transportation Pledge Program.

Transportation Company Pledge Signers 2014

A Platinum Plus Limousines, Inc
6146 Downs Ridge Court
Elkridge, MD 21075
410-796-7433
Michael E. Greene
Commission No: 3077
www.platinumpluslimos.com

A Touch of Elegance
Limousine Service, Inc
1393 Hughes Shop Road
Westminster, MD 21158
410-876-0902
Linda Dennis
Commission No: 1428
www.weddingtrain.com

About Town Limousine Service, Inc.
PO Box 276
North East, MD 21901
410-287-6400
Carol Gerhart
Commission No: 377
www.abouttownlimo.com

Absolute Elegance Limousine, Inc.
P.O. Box 851
Edgewood, MD 21040
410-679-8555
Tim Foster
Commission No: 1667
www.aelimousines.com

Affordable Luxury Limousine Service
PO Box 38
White Marsh, MD 21162
410-529-5006
Jim Ferguson
Commission No: 1499
jimeferguson@comcast.net

American Limousines, Inc.
4401 E. Fairmount Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224
410-522-0400
Gary Day
Commission No: 56
www.amerlimo.com

American Sedan Service, Inc.
2 Fox Field Court
Reisterstown, MD 21136
410-833-1060
Vladimir Segal
Commission No: 1095
americansedan1@verizon.net

An Extraordinary Limousine Service
1113 Dorsey Road
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410-437-8200
Michelle Tepper
Commission No: 753
www.bigcars.com

At Your Door Limousine, LLC
1701 Searles Rd.
Dundalk, MD 21222
443-503-6217
Wendy Greiser
Commission No: 4408
www.atyourdoorlimousine.com

Belaire Limousine, Inc.
P.O. Box 37
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-879-4548
Carolyn J. Nelson
Commission No: 637
www.BelaireLimo.com

Black Ice Transportation
10813 River Oaks Terrace
Bowie, MD 20721
240-863-6315
Reginald Banks
Commission No: 3774

Bob's Limousine Service
9229 Main Street
Damascus, MD 20872
301-525-2525
Bob Cherian
Commission No: 4185
www.bobslimoservice.com

Capital City Limousine, Inc.
5140 Lawrence Place
Hyattsville, MD 20781
301-982-6100
James M. Bowling
Commission No: 1077
www.capitalcitylimo.com

Charm City Connections
250 East Susquehanna Ave.
Towson, MD 21286
888-828-6767
Sunny Stevens
Commission No. 2444
www.charmcityconnections.com

Excalibur Express
1451 Henryton Road
Marriottsville, MD 21104
410-442-1251
Joseph T. Jones
Commission No: 525
ExcaliburExpressLimo.com

Executive Carriage, Inc.
8359 Washington Blvd
Jessup, MD 20794
410-880-3500
Joe Mundie
Commission No: 3057
www.executivecarriage.com

First Choice Transportation
11521 Cronridge Drive, Suite E
Owings Mills, MD 21117
410-356-3499
Kim Little
Commission No: 2218
www.fctsedan.com

Hall's Limousine Service, LLC
12002 Hazem Ct.
Ft. Washington, MD 20744
240-375-1785
Paul E. Hall, Sr.
Commission No: 3224
www.hallslimosineservice.com

Hire Quality, Inc.
3103 Winchester Way
Fallston, MD 21047
410-877-1600
Barbara Ballard
Commission No: 1831
www.HQLimo.com

International Limousine Service, Inc.
2300 T. St. NE
Washington, DC 20002
201-388-6800
Richard P. Kane
Commission No: 32
www.internationallimo.com

Jason Tours & Limousine
P.O. Box 1782
Clinton, MD 20735
301-967-8200
John C. Jason
Commission No: 5030
www.jasontours.com

Lasting Impressions Limousine Service
P.O. Box 1406
Westminster, MD 21158
1-800-583-2233
Kimberly Klein
Commission No: 2370
www.lastingimpressions1.com

Lighthouse Limousines and Sedans
116 Mill Swamp Rd.
Edgewater, MD 21037
410-798-8881
Leon Johnson
Commission No: 3366
www.lighthouselimousines.com

LSA Worldwide
8723 Darcy Road
Forestville, MD 20747
301-324-1650
877-647-2188
Alex Pope, III
Commission No: 3187
www.lsaworldwide.com

Martin's Sedan & Limousine Service
7537 Rickenbacker Dr.
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
301-260-9393
Julian Martin
Commission No: 3341
www.msllimo.com

Melody's Tours, LLC
32 Tenbury Rd.
Lutherville, MD 21093
410-790-6308
Melody Ann Knight
Commission No. 4814
www.Melodystours.com

Ogilvie Transportation Services
P.O. Box 12233
Silver Spring, MD 20908
301-598-0591
Sheila Ogilvie
Commission No: 2123
www.otslimo.com

Reliable Limousine
11941 Tech Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-622-5800
Paul Rodberg
Commission No: 1494
www.reliablelimo.com

RMA Worldwide Chauffeured
Transportation
11565 Old Georgetown Rd.
Rockville, MD 20852
410-519-0000
Robert M. Alexander
Commission No: 2014
www.rmalimo.com

The Franklin Chauffeur, LLC
400 Symphony Circle, #155
Hunt Valley, MD 21030
410-903-0385
Linda Lee Jones
Commission No: 4216
www.thefranklinchauffeur.com

The Limo Lady/ All Around the County
Transportation Services, Inc.
PO Box 20179
Baltimore, MD 21284
410-663-7000
Joanna Fridinger
Commission No: 2171
www.thelimolady.com

Triangle Limousines, Inc.
P.O Box 188
Forest Hill, MD 21050
410-877-0215
Don Testerman
Commission No: 3049
info@trianglelimos.com

Xquisite Transportation
1527 Medford Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443-992-2844
Anthony Shoats
Commission No. 4512
www.xquisitetrans.com

Zbest Limousine Service, Inc.
6809 Ritchie Highway
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
410-768-1148 Extension 1
Korkut Onal
Commission No: 1210
www.zbestlimo.com

Baltimore County Department of Health
6401 York Road, Third floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
Phone: 410-887-3828
Fax: 410-887-3786

TTY users: Call through Maryland Relay

Email: substanceabuse@baltimorecountymd.gov

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/go/health

Baltimore County does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, physical or mental disability, marital status, political affiliation, creed, religion, or national origin. Upon prior request, provisions will be made to accommodate individuals with disabilities. This brochure is available in alternative format upon request. Baltimore County complies with the ADA.



Healthy people living, working, and playing in Baltimore County

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE – Director, Health and Human Services | Health Officer
Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

Supported by:
Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration &
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration