

Prom Season 2018



Parent Guide & Pledge Book

Baltimore County Department of Health





Dear Parent/Guardian:

It is my pleasure to present Baltimore County's 2018 *Safe & Sober Prom Season Parent Guide & Pledge Book*. The booklet contains information on underage drinking and drug use, young driver safety, the legal consequences of providing alcohol to minors, parenting tips, and ways parents can support the after-prom activities at their child's school.

Our Pledge Book also includes the names of local limousine companies whose owners have agreed to sign the *Baltimore County Safe and Sober Pledge*. The Pledge states that Limousine Company employees will not allow minors to use or transport alcohol, tobacco, or any other drugs while using their transportation services. Please note that as of February 2018, all the companies listed meet the minimum safety requirements of the Maryland Public Service Commission. I encourage parents to patronize businesses that have made a commitment to the health and safety of our youth. I also recommend that parents 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 in advance for using this tool as a resource for your family during prom, graduation and for other occasions throughout the year. As we continue working together to protect our youth, we ultimately move closer to achieving our vision of making Baltimore County a place where healthy people live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Wm. Branch".

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

Know the Facts: Underage Drinking and Drug Use

- When drinking is delayed until age 21, the risk of serious alcohol problems is decreased by 70%.
- 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.
- One-fourth of 16-20 year old drivers who die in crashes have high blood alcohol concentrations.

Marijuana

- Marijuana is found in the blood of approximately 14% of drivers who die in accidents, often in combination with alcohol or other drugs.
- Research shows, that if smoked regularly during the teen years, marijuana can lower IQ.
- Brain development continues into the mid-20s. Using drugs like alcohol and marijuana, can negatively affect normal brain development.



Prescription Drug Use by Teens—A Growing Problem

- Every day, 2500 young people use a prescription pain reliever to get high for the first time.
- Nearly half of teens who use prescription drugs say they get them from a relative or friend.
- Teens are 50% less likely to abuse prescription drugs when they learn the risks of drugs from their parents.
- Take inventory of your prescription and over-the-counter medicines; secure them in a safe place and dispose of unused, unwanted and expired medicine. Drug drop boxes are available outside all Baltimore County Police precincts 24/7.



Know the Facts: Mental Health and Youth



- 1 in 5 children ages 13-18 have, or will have a serious mental illness.
- 20% of youth ages 13-18 live with a mental health condition.
- 50% of all lifetime cases of mental health begin by age 14 and 75% by age 24.
- The average delay between onset of symptoms and intervention is 8-10 years.
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24.



Resources:

Teen Mental Health

<http://www.teenmentalhealth.org/>

National Alliance on Mental Illness

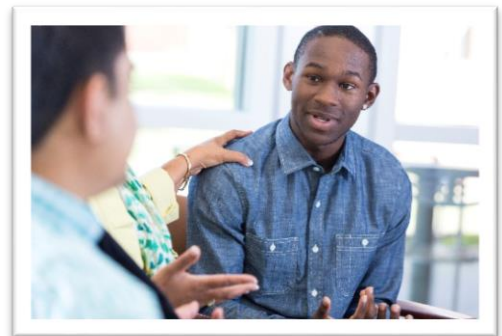
<https://www.nami.org/Find-Support/NAMI-Programs>

Office of Adolescent Health

<http://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-health-topics/mental-health/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration- Suicide Prevention

<https://www.samhsa.gov/suicide-prevention>



Baltimore County High School Seniors Survey Results

The results of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** indicate:

Percent of Baltimore County 12th grade students that:	2013	2014
had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more of the past 30 days	44.8	35.5
had five or more drinks of alcohol within a couple hours on one or more of the past 30 days	26.6	16.6
of students who drove in the past 30 days, drove after drinking alcohol 1 or more times	10.1	5.6
of students rode one or more times during the past 30 days in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol	22.0	18.3
texted or emailed while driving on one or more of the past 30 days	46.6	34.0
used tobacco products* in the past 30 days	23.9	20.7
<small>*(cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff & dip- 2013 definition)</small>		
<small>*(cigarettes, cigars, or smokeless tobacco- 2014 definition)</small>		
currently used electronic vapor products (e-cigarettes, e-pipes, vape pipes, vaping pens, e-hookahs, and hookah pens on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey	N/A	21.1
smoked marijuana in the past 30 days	28.6	25.4
took a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription one or more times during the past 30 days	8.7	9.4
Used heroin one or more times during their life	4.1	4.7

As with National surveys, county data shows most rates are decreasing, but there is still much work to do. Consider these statistics by the numbers:

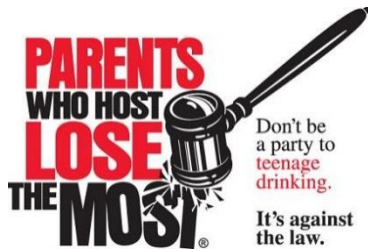
For 2018, Baltimore County has almost **7684** graduating seniors.

Approximately 361 YOUTH have tried heroin;
that’s almost 12 full classrooms.

Past 30 days use would equate to approximately:

- 2727 YOUTH drinking,
- 1951 YOUTH smoking marijuana,
- 722 YOUTH using prescription drugs for a non-medical use

Understand Laws Regarding Underage Drinking



Parents give their children mixed messages when they allow them to drink alcohol in their home with friends. Research shows teens who get mixed messages are more prone to drink and drive than those given a clear no-use message by parents.

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

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.
- Avoid sending invitations via social media that can easily be shared with others.
- Provide plenty of food and nonalcoholic beverages and monitor the party without being conspicuous (e.g., replenish snacks, etc.).
- Limit guests to certain areas of your home. Let them know that if they leave the party, they cannot return.



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

Talk Early...Talk Often...Get Involved

For support on how to start talking, visit:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking/parent-resources>

<http://www.kognito.com/startthetalk/>

1. Provide consistent discipline, rules, and role-modeling
2. Monitor youth activities and your alcohol supply
3. Practice listening and communication skills
4. Problem solve together
5. Work to strengthen relationships through mutual respect

Encourage Young Driver Safety

Did you know?

High school students are more likely to drink and smoke cigarettes and marijuana in the month immediately after getting their driver's license. Improve your teen's health and safety by discussing the dangers of alcohol, drugs and impaired or distracted driving. Set a good example behind the wheel and establish driving rules and consequences early.

According to the 2015 Maryland Young Driver Safety Program Area Brief:

Metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of crashes involving young drivers. From 2011 to 2013 in Maryland, on average, nearly 16 percent of all young driver-related crashes occurred in Baltimore County.

Rules of the Road:

- **Limit the number of teen passengers in your young driver's car to one or zero.** The presence of teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers. This risk increases with the number of teen passengers.
- **Always wear your seat belt and agree that no one in your family drives impaired.** Research shows that seat belts reduce serious crash-related injuries and deaths by about half.
- **Discourage distractions and risky behaviors for your teen driver.** Distractions are a major cause of young driver crashes. Some examples of distracted driving are texting, cell phone use, eating and drinking, talking to others in the vehicle. Texting is the most common and dangerous distraction because it requires coordinated use of the eyes, hands and mind.
- **Educate your family about the law and its consequences.** In the State of Maryland, the handheld use of a cell phone by any driver is a primary offense. Additionally, 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. Jake's law imposes penalties of up to one year imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000 with a mandatory 12 points assessed. This applies to drivers 18 and older who are at fault in crashes caused by the use of a handheld mobile electronic device that result in serious injury or death.

For more information on young driver safety, visit

<http://mva.maryland.gov/rookiedriver>

Support Your Teen's After-Prom Activity

Prom and graduation are exciting events that may increase high-risk behaviors by your teen.

Talk to your teen.
Their choices affect their future.

For tips on how to prevent underage drinking, call 410-887-3828



Baltimore County Department of Health
Healthy people, living, working, and playing in Baltimore County

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



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.)
- 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.



Maryland Limousine Association Limousine/Sedan Service Rental Tips



We have listed below, a few questions you should ask limousine companies BEFORE you sign a contract or pay a deposit.

It is strongly suggested that you talk directly with the company you want to get information from. Many times, the internet will provide false/misleading information (photos, pricing, locality...etc). DON'T place a reservation on-line with someone you have not talked with first. Take a moment to verify their authority to operate! DON'T Place a reservation blindly! (See below)

There are two different classifications of "For Hire" vehicles and the REQUIRED Licensing and Commercial Vehicle Insurance is different for each. In addition, the CHAUFFEUR/Driver is REQUIRED to have special driving license to operate ANY of these vehicles. Public Service Commission (PSC) is Maryland's governing Authority.

1. **Limousines/Sedan** – These vehicles could be 1 to 14 passengers. Examples of these types of vehicle could be: Standard Lincoln Town Car Sedan, Standard SUV, 6, 8,10 or 12, 14 passenger stretch limousine, Van, 14 passenger or under shuttle or mini limo coach.
 - A) **ANY** person operating any of the above vehicles are REQUIRED to hold in their possession, a PSC For Hire Driver's License along with their MD Driver's License. If the company is licensed to operate in Maryland, you can go to the PSC website at: http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/Intranet/Transport/GetCarrier_new.cfm or call 410-767-8000>>Transportation Division. In addition, ALL vehicles MUST display a yellow Authority sticker and a Red & White sticker on the lower portion of their front windshield. Also, the MD MVA tags should END with a "B", "LM" or "P" (example 12345LM, 56789B, 123 21P) If any other tag is displayed, then the company DOES NOT HAVE MARYLAND AUTHORITY TO OPERATE the vehicle!
2. **SUV Stretch, Limo Coaches, Buses** – These vehicles are rated as 15 passenger or more. Examples of these vehicles could be stretch SUV's, Stretch Hummers, Limo Coaches, Limo Bus, Limo Party Bus, Shuttle bus, Motor Coaches and Lim-Bus-ines.
 - A) ANY person operating any of the above vehicles are REQUIRED to hold in their possession a CDL Driver's License w/ Passenger Endorsement along with their MD Driver's License.

If the company is licensed to operate they are REQUIRED to hold FEDERAL USDOT Authority and DISPLAY their USDOT #'s on both sides of their vehicle. To check to see if this company is legal to operate, go to: <http://safer.fmcsa.dot.gov/CompanySnapshot.aspx>

Please refer to the information below based upon the type of vehicle you want to contract;

1. What is the size, color and what year is the limo?
2. What is the TOTAL cost for the rental of the limo? Does their TOTAL cost include gratuity (tip) for the chauffeur?
3. Is a contract written? And when are the deposit and the signed contract due back to the limousine company? Is the Deposit refundable or non-refundable?
4. Is the Chauffeur properly trained and properly licensed in the State of Maryland? Does the Chauffeur have a current PSC For hire license?
5. Is this company currently holding a VALID PSC certificate? If so, what is their courier number? (Every limousine and transportation company MUST be registered with the Public Service Commission.)
6. Is the company properly insured in the State Of Maryland?
7. Does the company have a policy of NO ALCOHOL, NO ILLEGAL DRUGS?
8. Do they participate in county or school sponsored Prom Promise program?
9. Can you view the car prior to Prom night?
10. When the vehicle arrives, ask to see the Chauffeur/Driver's PSC For-Hire Driver's License or their CDL Passenger Endorsement License.
11. Finally, look to see if they have the required PSC Stickers displayed on their windshield and or their USDOT numbers on each side of the vehicle. (Vehicles with a capacity of 15 or more passengers MUST DISPLAY these numbers.

Ask these questions of the limo company. If they avoid answering or cannot immediately answer these questions... then cross that company off your list and call the next limousine company! Don't look for the cheapest deal. Look for a responsible company that is properly insured and licensed! **After all.....would you knowingly put a family member or loved one in a vehicle that you know nothing about?**

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

If a transportation company who has signed this pledge 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 and vape 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.

2018 Transportation Company Pledge Signers

A Platinum Plus Limousines, Inc.

8359 Washington Blvd

Jessup, MD 20794

410-796-7433

Michael E. Greene

Commission No.: 3077

www.platinumpluslimos.com

About Town Limousine Service, Inc.

1717 Turkey Point Rd, P.O. Box 276

North East, MD 21901

410-287-6400

Carol Gerhart

Commission No.: 377

www.abouttownlimo.com

Affordable Luxury Limousine Service

P.O. Box 38

White Marsh, MD 21162

410-529-5006

Jim Ferguson

Commission No.: 1499

www.affordableluxurylimos.com

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 Ct.

Reisterstown, MD 21136

410-833-1060

Vladimir Segel

Commission No.: 1095

www.rideamericansedan.com

An Extraordinary Limousine

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 Road

Dundalk, MD 21222

443-503-6217

Alfred and 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

Bob's Limousine Service

9929 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

9734 Cross Road

Perry Hall, MD 21128

410-661-6033

Sunny Stephens

Commission No.: 2444

www.charmcityconnections.com

First Choice Transportation

P.O. Box 1498

Owings Mills, MD 21117

410-356-3499

Kim Little

Commission No.: 2218

www.ftsedan.com

Goldstar Limousine

242 Victory Lane
Bel Air, MD 21014
410-977-6211
Warren Ribakow
Commission No.: 3441
www.limousinesinbelairmd.com
www.goldstarlimo.net

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. Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
202-388-6800
Richard P. Kane
Commission No.: 32
www.internationallimo.com

Lasting Impressions Limousine Service

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

LSA Worldwide

3356 Laurel - Fort Meade Road
Laurel, MD 20724
301-324-1650
Marvin Prince
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

1517 'B' Providence Road
Towson, MD 21286
410-790-6308
Melody Ann Knight
Commission No.: 4814
www.melodystours.com

Presidential Limo Service

6608 Kilmarnoch Dr.
Baltimore, MD 21228
410-788-4737
Marjorie Brooks
Commission No.: 2720
www.presidentiallimo.net

Reston Limousine

9200 East Hampton Drive
Capital Heights, MD 20743
1-800-546-6141
William Bouweiri
Commission No.: 1150
www.restonlimo.com

**RMA Worldwide Chauffeured
Transportation**

12270 Wilkins Avenue
Rockville, MD 20852
1-800-878-7743
Joe Herbert
Commission No.: 2014
www.rmalimo.com

The Franklin Chauffeur, LLC

534 Kinsale Rd.
Lutherville, MD 21093
410-841-8400
Linda Lee Jones
Commission No.: 4216
www.thefranklinchauffeur.com

The Limo Lady

P.O. Box 20179
Baltimore, MD 21284
410-663-7000
Joanna Fridinger
Commission No.: 2171
www.thelimolady.com

Xquisite Transportation, LLC

P.O. Box 6032

Lutherville- Timonium, MD 21094

443-992-2844

Anthony Shoats

Commission No.: 4512

www.xquisitetrans.com

Zbest Worldwide

6809 Ritchie Highway

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

410-768-1148

Mert Onal

Commission No.: 1210

www.zbestworldwide.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: behavioralhealth@baltimorecountymd.gov

Website: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/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, FACP – Director, Health and Human Services
Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz and the Baltimore County Council

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