

# A Contract for Safety

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*Brockton Area Prevention Collaborative is made up of five local community coalitions including the Brockton Mayor's Opioid Overdose Prevention Coalition, Bridging LIVES, EB Hope, Rockland CARES and Whitman Hanson WILL. The Brockton Area Prevention Collaborative is a regional group working together to address substance use prevention in the communities it serves.*



April is what is commonly known as the start of prom season and other major events for high school students. With the start of this time, also comes the rise of drinking events across the region. During this season, it is important to know ways to stay safe and responsible, often referred to as harm reduction. Considering harm reduction practices is important during this time because these events are often coupled with higher instances of impaired driving, alcohol intoxication to the point of hospitalization or death. In fact, 5.4% of youth have reported drinking before driving at least once.

([https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/teen\\_drivers/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/teen_drivers/index.html)).

“ 16.7% reported having been in a car with a driver who had been drinking ”

These events are also often the first time that youth try drinking and drinking in higher amounts. This first time can accompany the fear of parents finding out due to disapproval and a decreased likelihood of youth reaching out to an adult if they find themselves in an unsafe scenario like drinking too much alcohol, driving under the influence, or driving in a car with an impaired driver. It is important to note this because allowing the outlet for youth to have someone they can reach out to for help without having the fear of repercussions at the moment, can allow youth to have an avenue if they find themselves in a position like this one. It is important to be aware of these side effects of the season because education and awareness are often one of our top tools in protecting each other from unsafe consequences. A new way of encouraging teens to reach out for help when in unsafe situations is through something called an alcohol contract.

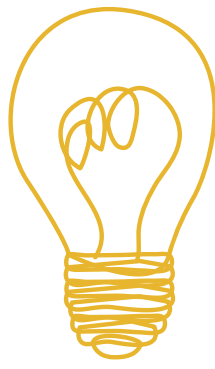
This contract is something that is signed between youth so that in the event they are in trouble due to alcohol, they will give permission to friends that they won't get upset if they need to call for help. Additionally, this contract can include their guardian or trusted adult so that the adult would agree to show up to help their teen and deal with any repercussions at a later date. This allows for youth to feel comfortable contacting someone for help and having that be the main focus at the time, which can help to save lives and keep youth safe.

Harm reduction is our biggest tool in preventing serious consequences of these major milestone events and it is important to focus on reducing harms in these moments so that we can focus on making this time of year safer for not only youth, but everyone in our communities.



@BROCKTONAREA PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE @OD\_PREVENTION

WWW.OPIOIDOVERDOSEPREVENTION.ORG



# GOOD SAMARITAN LAW: ALCOHOL

## WHAT IS THE LAW?

Person under 21 who, in good faith, seeks medical assistance for someone experiencing alcohol incapacitation, or seeks help for himself, or is the subject of a request for help, shall not be charged under:

*Massachusetts Criminal Justice Reform*

## THE FOLLOWING LAWS

1 **SOCIAL HOST**

2 **PROCUREMENT**

3 **MINOR IN  
POSSESSION**

This law  
**does not** protect  
adult hosts or  
participants.

# KNOW THE FACTS

# ALCOHOL



ALCOHOL CAN CONTRIBUTE TO **INCREASED** FEELINGS OF DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND LOW SELF-ESTEEM.



DRINKING BEFORE THE AGE OF **15** MAKES YOU **4 TIMES** MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP A PROBLEM WITH ALCOHOL.



**MIXING** ALCOHOL WITH OTHER SUBSTANCES, INCLUDING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, CAN PUT YOU AT RISK TO **OVERDOSE**.



A MINOR CAN BE HELD **LIABLE** OF THE SOCIAL HOST LAW IF PROVIDING ALCOHOL TO MINORS.

# ALCOHOL



## PLAYBOOK



If you find yourself in any of these situations, use our "plays" to help keep you and your friends safe.

"My friend wants me to drink... I don't want to."



- "I want to hang out, but I'm not going to drink."
- "My parents are waiting up for me tonight."
- "I have to get up so early tomorrow..."
- "I'll be the designated driver."

"My friend is drunk and wants to drive."



- Try to talk your friend out of this decision.
- Suggest calling a trusted adult or an Uber.
- If they aren't listening, ask to take their keys.

"My friend mixed drugs and alcohol."



- Mixing drugs and alcohol significantly increases your chance of overdose.
- Call 911. Do NOT leave your friend alone.
- If your friend is unconscious, roll them on their side while you wait for the ambulance to arrive.

**MAKING THE RIGHT PLAY COULD SAVE A LIFE.**



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