

# GET THE FAQ'S ON NEW DRUG AND ALCOHOL LAWS

## Q: IS IT TRUE THAT OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HAVE DECRIMINALIZED MARIJUANA AND UNDERAGE DRINKING?

A: No, it is not true. Marijuana use and drinking alcohol under the age of 21 are still illegal. What has changed is the nature of the penalty. Police from both villages now have the option of charging kids (13-18 years old) with a local ordinance violation instead of a misdemeanor. This would mean no criminal record – and a likely referral to services that will help users get the support they may need to make healthier choices.

## Q: Will I be taken in to the police station if I'm caught with tobacco, alcohol or small amounts of marijuana?

A: If you're caught with tobacco or alcohol, police have the option of using the new ordinances to issue a citation, like a ticket, on the spot. If you're caught with less than 30 grams of marijuana, they can still issue a ticket under the new ordinances, but you will be taken in to the station. In all cases, your parents will be contacted and the school you attend will be notified.

## Q: If I'm at a party where marijuana and/or alcohol are being used openly by other kids, can I be cited even if I'm not drinking alcohol or using drugs?

A: Yes, in Oak Park you can. Under their new ordinances, you don't need to possess or be using drugs or alcohol yourself in order to receive a citation. Simply being there is an offense. In River Forest, you won't be issued a citation, but your parents will be called and your school will be notified.

## Q: CAN MY PARENTS BE CITED IF I HOST AN UNDERAGE PARTY WITH DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL WHEN THEY'RE NOT HOME?

A: Yes. They can avoid a citation, however, if they take reasonable steps to make sure you and your friends are safe and make healthy and legal decisions. Here are some of the steps they might take to avoid a citation or use as a defense if cited:

- Supervise any party they are hosting to make sure underage kids aren't consuming illegal substances.
- Notify police before going out of town or being away from home for any length of time.
- Call police for assistance if they return home and can't stop underage attendees from consuming.
- Terminate the party when they return home and discover drug and/or alcohol use by minors.

## Q: If I'm under 18 can police really give me a citation for smoking or chewing tobacco?

A: Yes. You might get a warning the first time, but police always have the option of issuing a ticket. In either case your tobacco will be confiscated and your parents will be notified. Penalties may include fines from \$25 and/or enrollment in a smoking cessation or education program.

## Q: IF I DO GET CITED FOR AN OFFENSE, WILL I HAVE TO REPORT IT ON MY FUTURE COLLEGE OR JOB APPLICATIONS?

A: That depends on what question is asked of you. Currently, you would not have to report the citation on the 2013 Common or FAFSA Applications because you are not "adjudicated guilty or convicted of a misdemeanor or felony" if cited under the new local ordinances. (*Any school disciplinary action may still have to be reported.*) Future employers (with some exceptions) would not have access to the "administrative record" that you would have at the Village.