



An Important Message from the Glen Rock Police Department

2011-2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We at the Glen Rock Police Department join the Board of Education in welcoming your child to back to school this year. We would like to take this opportunity to answer some of your questions regarding the use of alcohol and drugs by your children particularly as to the consequences of such use.

In addition, one of the many goals shared by the G.R.P.D. and the Board of Education is to provide parents and guardians with up-to-date information that will help keep children safe. Therefore, please note that due to the commencement of school renovation and construction, we will also highlight a few important changes relating to parking at the High School / Middle School campus.

We ask that you not just share this information with the young adults in your life, but that you use it to engage in an on-going, meaningful dialogue with them. Remember the old adage: *An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*

1. What could happen if my child is caught with alcohol in his or her possession?

Glen Rock Ordinance 154-6, made into law in 2001, states that it is unlawful for any citizen under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol on **all private property** within the confines of the Borough. The State of New Jersey permits local towns to enact such ordinances and many communities have joined Glen Rock in doing so. Under the law, any person under the age of 18 found in violation will be placed into custody and brought to police headquarters with the alcohol placed into evidence. A legal guardian is then contacted and required to respond to the police department prior to the release of the minor child. If found guilty in juvenile court, the judge may impose a fine of not less than **\$100.00** or more than **\$200.00**. In addition, your child could **lose his or her driver's license** for up to six months. Those ages 18 and older who are arrested will be issued a summons and required to appear in Municipal Court as an adult defendant.

Individuals may also be charged and found guilty as a "disorderly person" as defined by the New Jersey Criminal Justice Code if the offense occurs while in public. In this case, the court can impose a fine of **\$500.00** in addition to a **driver's license suspension**. Those who have attained the age of 18 are charged as adults. If found guilty, a conviction for a disorderly persons offense will stay with him or her through adulthood.

2. Can I host a party and serve alcohol to minors as long as I am supervising the party?

As a parent the law permits you to serve alcohol **only to your child on your own property**. If any other minor is being served, **you** can be issued a "disorderly persons" complaint and become subject to court-mandated penalties which include a **\$500.00 fine** and **up to 90 days in jail**. **These penalties can be imposed whether or not you are supervising the party being held on your property**. In addition, you can then be sued in civil court for substantial monetary damages by the parents of the minors to whom you or your child provided alcohol. Those minors can also be charged with possession (see question 1 above). If an individual becomes ill or gets into an accident, you could also be held responsible **criminally** as well.

3. What happens if my child is caught in a car where marijuana is found?

In this case, a police officer may lawfully place **all the occupants** in the vehicle under arrest for possession of marijuana as well as any other controlled dangerous substance involved. **It would not matter if your child did not smoke the marijuana**. The marijuana would be placed into evidence and the **vehicle could be impounded**. All of the occupants would be transported to the police station and issued a "disorderly persons" complaint (if age 18 or older) or Juvenile Delinquency Complaint (minor under 18 years) under the N.J. Criminal Code for possession of a controlled dangerous substance. The penalties would include a presumptive **loss of license** for six months, a **mandatory DEDR** penalty (Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction) fee of **\$500.00**, and court costs would be imposed. *The penalties apply regardless of whether your child is found in a vehicle, the woods, a house, or a park*. In addition, a motor vehicle summons could be issued which would result in a **driver's license suspension for up to two additional years**. Those found guilty who have attained the age of 18 will have this conviction for a disorderly persons offense stay with them through adulthood as described above.

4. What if my child was driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol?

This is governed by New Jersey's Motor Vehicle Laws. For the purposes of a motor vehicle offense, juveniles are treated in the same manner as adults. If the police officer determines that a driver is under the influence, he or she is placed into custody. The vehicle is then impounded and held in accordance with "John's Law" for a minimum of 12 hours at the owner's expense. The driver is transported to police headquarters and given a mandatory breath test. Being under the age of 21, there are two different penalty categories based on the driver's blood alcohol level. If it is *over 0.0% but less than 0.08%*, the court can impose a **\$100.00** DWI surcharge, **loss of license** for 30 to 90 days, a minimum fine of **\$250.00**, **twelve hours of DWI school**, and **15 to 30 days of community service**. These charges can be imposed if the officer determines the driver has had **any** alcohol. If the blood alcohol level is *over .08%*, the driver would be treated as if he or she were 21 years of age. The penalties would be the same as listed above, but the **loss of license** would be for a **minimum of seven months**. Also, car insurance companies have been imposing a **three year surcharge of \$1000 per year** when a person is guilty of driving while intoxicated.

5. What could happen if my child is stopped while driving a motor vehicle with too many passengers?

The holder of a provisional driver's license is allowed to operate the vehicle with **one** passenger with whom the holder does not reside. Effective **May 1, 2010**, the limit became **one passenger regardless of family affiliation unless accompanied by a parent or guardian**. The provisionally licensed driver shall not operate a motor vehicle between 12:01 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. On May 1, 2010, that time limit also changed to **11:01 p.m. to 5 a.m.** A motor vehicle summons will be issued for these violations and the driver subject to all other motor vehicle laws. If the driver accumulates more than two NJDMV motor vehicle points, he or she will be required to complete a remedial training course of not less than four hours.

6. Parking and Food Delivery Information.

Please be reminded that parking around the Middle/High School is by permit and only in the posted areas. Students may park on the surrounding side streets, but must obey the posted regulations restricting parking on certain sides of the street. Parking is not permitted, at any time, in any yellow zone or where posted. Also, left turns onto Kirkwood Road from Radburn Road are not permitted during school hours. A parking enforcement officer has been assigned to the area and summonses will be issued. Students, as well as parents visiting the school, are asked to be considerate of the residents who live near the school. Their daily lives have been greatly impacted due to the changes in parking brought about by the school construction project. All motorists, and this includes students, staff members and parents, are reminded that parking and traffic regulations will be strictly enforced.

In addition to motor vehicle safety, school security is always a consideration given the highest priority, particularly now due to the advent of major construction at the school site. The school district will be taking particular care to regulate the access of individuals not having a direct connection with the school community (i.e., persons other than students, faculty, parents, etc.). Parents and students are therefore reminded that outside deliveries of food directly to students is not permitted. In trying to balance heightened security with the maintenance of normalcy in our everyday lives, twelfth graders (Seniors) will be permitted to continue in the practice of leaving the campus during lunch. Seniors are expected to refrain from acting as a delivery service for underclassman (11th grade and younger) who are not permitted to leave the campus during lunch periods.

On behalf of the all the members of Glen Rock Police Department and Glen Rock Board of Education and Staff, we ask for your help in making sure that our students and young drivers act responsibly at all times. We encourage you and your children to keep these commonly asked questions in mind throughout the school year, especially in times of celebrations, such as graduation ceremonies. During these memorable times, we thank you in advance for doing your part to keep this year free from of tragedy. Help your child to have the courage to say "NO!"

Thank you very much for your anticipated cooperation in this important matter.

Chief Frederick Stahman
Glen Rock Police Department

Dr. David C. Verducci, Superintendent of Schools
and the Glen Rock Board of Education

The material contained herein was compiled by
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