

Responding to Questions About Marijuana

If Your Kid Says...	You Say...
<i>Marijuana is a natural plant; how harmful could it be?</i>	"Smoking marijuana's is at least as bad as smoking cigarettes, and you already know how dangerous tobacco is to your health." "Marijuana can harm your future, too. It's proven that it's harder to concentrate and retain information when you've been using pot."
<i>Marijuana is not addictive.</i>	"Sixty percent of teens currently in drug treatment are dependent on Marijuana. More youth enter drug treatment with a primary diagnosis of marijuana dependence than for all other illicit drugs combined."
<i>Marijuana can't cause any real problems in the long term.</i>	"If you smoke marijuana, you could do things that jeopardize your future, like having sex or getting in trouble with the law." "You can lose scholarship or loan money, or get kicked off the sports team."
<i>Marijuana only makes you mellow.</i>	"Not always. Sometimes it makes people violent. Kids who use marijuana weekly are four times more likely to engage in violent behavior than those who don't."
<i>Marijuana's not as popular as new drugs like ecstasy.</i>	"More kids use marijuana than any other illicit drug by far."
<i>If I smoke marijuana, I'm not hurting anyone else.</i>	"Marijuana trafficking is a big, international, often violent business. The people behind it are criminals. If you're smoking pot, you could be hurting other people."
<i>You smoked pot and turned out fine.</i>	"This isn't about my past - it's about your future. Marijuana is illegal and can be risky. I don't want you using the drug."
<i>I know straight A students who smoke pot.</i>	"Most kids who smoke marijuana don't make straight As. Research shows that kids with an average grade of "D" or below were more than four times more likely to have used marijuana in the past year as kids who reported an average grade of A."
<i>Marijuana must be good for you; it's medicine.</i>	"Marijuana is not a medicine. A THC (active ingredient of marijuana) pill is available by prescription for treating cancer and AIDS patients, but more research needs to be done before marijuana can be used as medicine. Remember, smoked marijuana contains over 400 known carcinogens."

Source: The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign's Behavior Change Expert Panel

Chambers County Juvenile Drug Court



Guidelines

"Just for Parents"

Juvenile Drug issues impact the whole family. For this reason, the Juvenile Drug Court deals with the entire family. Family involvement is critical to effective drug and alcohol treatment and juvenile court interventions. Since most of the young people who participate in this drug program live with their families, it is critical that families agree to participate in their child's treatment. Parental education groups and nuclear family therapy will be offered to all parents of our participants. These programs are considered part of your youth's treatment. Where applicable, parents also need to address their own drug and alcohol dependency or other critical issues that may perpetuate difficulties in the family as a whole. Parents are a very important part of the solution to getting kids back on track in order to become productive community citizens. Sometimes parents of teens need to re-tool their parenting skills in the context of parenting teenagers. Proactive parenting works best when helping your child with their substance abuse or other adolescent issues. By signing the drug court contract you are agreeing to participate fully in your child's treatment and in a six-week support group especially designed to give you the knowledge and skills necessary to help facilitate your child's successful completion of the Juvenile Drug Court program.

Parental responsibility includes

- Recognizing signs of drug and alcohol use responding with appropriate sanctions.
- Assuring that juvenile meets all appointments including court dates and treatment meetings
- Providing a substance free environment that promotes recovery.
- Conveying a sense of care, support, respect and love.
- Supporting Juvenile Drug court decisions and sanctions and informing the Juvenile Drug Court team of any problems meeting their mandates.
- Recognizing that their own substance use can seriously harm their children.
- Recognizing the need to be an appropriate role model for children that discourages drug and alcohol abuse and that abides by the rules and regulations of the drug court as defined in this pamphlet including the dress requirements
- Assuring that the juvenile attends the educational curriculum that is indicated in the treatment plan.
- Helping the juvenile accept responsibility for actions by allowing them to earn money to pay for fines and fees
- Recognizing that substance abuse is also a family problem and educating themselves on its impact on their children and extended families.
- Abiding by the treatment plan and encouraging the juveniles' cooperation with the plan.
- Applying for All Kids, Medicaid, and other benefits that the family may be entitled to receive.

PARENTING IS TOUGH!

SOMETIMES WE NEED A FEW TIPS.
Call 1-866-962-3030.

What is PAL?

The Parenting Assistance Line (PAL) is a collaborative service of the University of Alabama Child Development Resources and the Alabama Children's Trust Fund. When callers call the toll-free number, 1-866-962-3030, a parenting resource specialist will answer the phone, listen to you, then offer helpful information and support. Callers can also request free literature about their specific parenting concerns.

Who is PAL for?

PAL is for anyone who wants information and support in becoming a more confident parent. Let's face it...when babies are born, they don't come with "instructions!" Parenting can be tough and sometimes with today's stresses and problems we all just need a little help. PAL can provide helpful assistance to moms, dads, grandparents, and relatives whose children are ages birth through adolescence.

Will they think I'm a bad parent?

No! All parents have times of frustration or stress over difficulties in raising a child. Calls are free and confidential. "Talking it out" can help us not "take it out" on our children.

When can I call?

Parent Resource Specialists are available from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Messages can be left at any time.

Crisis Center of East Alabama
(334) 821-8600

The Crisis Center of East Alabama is a Suicide/Crisis intervention telephone hot-line. When you have any kind of problem, and don't know where to get help, call someone who cares. We accept collect calls from Lee and Chambers Counties in Alabama, and from West Point, Georgia.

**GOOD HEALTH
IS OUR
GOAL**

*Healthcare coverage
for children and teens*

Affordable healthcare

- ◆ Stop worrying about how to pay for medical bills
- ◆ Low premiums based on family size and income

Accessible healthcare

- ◆ Select a doctor you trust for your children
- ◆ Services managed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama preferred provider network

Preventive healthcare

- ◆ Receive needed immunizations
- ◆ Get medical attention before a small illness turns into a big one

ALL Kids

1-888-373-KIDS (5437)

www.adph.org/allkids