

**The Litchfield Safe Homes Network**

The goal of **Safe Homes** is to build a communication network among the parents and guardians of Litchfield students to reduce the use of alcohol and other drugs and foster a positive social environment for Hillsborough County youth. The **Safe Homes Network** is a program supported by parents, for parents, to help each other ensure the homes their children visit are safe and healthy places. Guardians of youth and community members are also an integral part of building community safety and supporting the message of NO Underage USE of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. **Safe Homes** parents enjoy the mutual support of other like-minded adults by agreeing to follow the tenets of the Safe Homes pledge.

By signing the **Safe Homes** pledge, parents are letting other Litchfield families know that they intend to supervise teen social gatherings in their homes to make sure teen parties and get-togethers are alcohol and drug free. It also indicates that they can be contacted by other parents. To the best of our knowledge all the families listed have asked to be included because they are committed to preventing the illegal use of alcohol or other drugs in their homes now, even if they may have done so in the past.

**SAFE HOMES PLEDGE**

- I will actively supervise all gatherings of youth in our home or on our property, or ask another responsible adult for help to do so.
- I will not allow the possession or use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs by youth in our home or on our property.
- I will set expectations for my children by knowing where they are going, whom they are with, what they are doing, and when they are to return.

*This is not a legally binding contract, but rather an agreement between members of the SAFE HOMES Network.*

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Parent/Guardian or Community Agency consenting to be a participant in the Litchfield **SAFE HOMES** Network:

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\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or other family members wishing to be identified/listed in the SAFE HOMES Network:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you DO NOT want your address to be published. \_\_\_\_\_

For questions or to submit your pledge form, please contact Elin Pelland, School Social Worker, through mail at CHS, 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield NH 03052; through email at [epelland@litchfieldsd.org](mailto:epelland@litchfieldsd.org) or phone 546-0300 x 2264. A directory of **Safe Homes** participants will be made available to each household unless otherwise specified.

## **Considerations as a Safe Homes Participant**

### **High School Parent:**

1. I will NOT allow unsupervised parties or gatherings in my home.
2. I will NOT serve or allow anyone under the age of 21 years to consume alcohol, or permit the use of illicit drugs by anyone in my home or on my property.
3. I wish to be informed by other parents of any drug or alcohol use or any other risk taking behavior of which they are aware my child/children may be involved. Also, I will inform other Safe Homes parents of any drug or alcohol use or any other risk taking behavior of which I am aware their child/children may be involved.
4. I will call other parents for information when my child/children is/are invited to a party and I will welcome calls from other parents concerned about their child/children.

### **Middle School Parent:**

1. I will be a good role model. My habits and attitudes may strongly influence my child/children's ideas about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.
2. I will know who my child/children's friends are. And, when possible, I will know their parents. Next to me, friends are the biggest influence on my child/children at this age.
3. I will make family rules. It is helpful for my child/children to know the specific rules about not using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It will also be helpful for my child/children to know what the consequences will be for using them.

### **Elementary School Parent:**

1. I will teach my child/children the risks of alcohol and other drug use. Because alcohol is legal for adults to drink, my child/children may be confused about the risks young people face if they drink alcohol.
2. I will help my child/children deal with peer pressure. I recognize that my child/children may need my encouragement and "permission" to say no to negative peer pressure.
3. I will encourage healthy, creative activities. Hobbies, school events, and other activities may prevent my child/children from using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

For more information about Safe Homes, please contact the Safe Homes Coordinator, Elin Pelland, LICSW, at 546-0300 x 2264.

Information and parent resources about alcohol and drug abuse can be viewed on a number of web resources. Some suggestions are:

Safe Homes of Omaha Nebraska [www.safehomes.org](http://www.safehomes.org) or [www.prideprevention.org](http://www.prideprevention.org).

Parents: The Anti-Drug at [www.theantidrug.com](http://www.theantidrug.com).

The Council on Chemical Abuse at [www.councilonchemicalabuse.org](http://www.councilonchemicalabuse.org).

Not My Kid at [www.notmykid.org](http://www.notmykid.org).

***Safe Homes cannot guarantee listed information. Personal telephone calls to the host parents are still vital to confirm social plans. By signing the Safe Homes pledge, parents are indicating that they recognize that communication among parents is essential to the effectiveness of the Safe Homes network.***