

# LAWS FOR YOUTH

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Douglas County Juvenile Probation

And



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## ALCOHOL

**What is an alcoholic beverage?**

Any drink that has one half of one percent (.5%) alcohol is an alcoholic beverage. This includes beer, wine and other liquors.

**When can I buy an alcoholic beverage?**

You must be 21 years of age before you can buy or drink an alcoholic beverage.

(N.R.S. 202.020)

**What if someone provides me with an alcoholic beverage?**

It is against the law to sell or give an alcoholic beverage to a person under 21 or to let the person drink in a bar or store. (N.R.S. 202.020, 202.030, 202.055)

**Suppose I go into a store or bar to buy an alcoholic drink, what will happen?**

If you appear to be under 21, you will be asked to prove your age and if you can't, the dealer cannot sell to you and you will be asked to leave. (N.R.S. 202.030, 202.055)

**What if I borrow a driver's license or change the age on mine to show I am 21 years or older?**

You will be breaking the law in both cases. You cannot lend or borrow a driver's license, or falsify one for any reason. (N.R.S. 202.040, 483.530)

**What if I am present at a party, where there is alcohol and it gets busted by the**

**Sheriff's Office?**

If it is determined that you have been drinking you will be cited and released to a parent/guardian or taken into custody depending on the circumstances. If you are not found to be under the influence, you will be asked to leave the party.

**Is it possible for me to lose my driver's license if I am convicted of a drug and/or alcohol related offense?**

Yes, your driver's license may be suspended by the Court for up to two (2) years if you have been found guilty of using, possessing or selling any drug or alcoholic beverage. (N.R.S. 62.226, 484.379, 453.411, 453.336, 453.337)

**What if I don't have a driver's license when I was caught using alcohol and/or drugs?**

With any child 14 years of age or older, the judge may issue an order delaying that child from applying for a Driver's License for a period of up to two (2) years.

**What other laws are there about alcoholic beverages?**

It is against the law for a person under 21 to:

1. Possess liquor on any street, highway or public place, to carry liquor in a car or be a passenger in a car that is carrying liquor unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, even if the container is sealed. (N.R.S. 202.020, 202.030, 202.055)

2. Enter and remain in a bar without lawful business. (N.R.S. 202.030, 202.055, 202.060)

3. Be hired to work in any place where the main business is selling alcoholic beverage to be used on the premises or be hired to work at any place where the alcohol beverages are for off the premise consumption if the employee is under 18, unless he is under continued supervision of a person over 21. (N.R.S. 244.350, 244.351)

It is against the law for anyone to:

1. Be drunk along a highway or under the influence of drugs in public or on a public highway. (N.R.S. 453.411, 484.331)

2. Drink, sell, possess or give liquor to any person liquor on any public school or school ground. (N.R.S. 202.055)

3. Permit a minor to loiter in a place where liquor is sold and not operated as a restaurant. (N.R.S. 202.030, 202.060, 463.350, 202.055, 207.260)

**What rules should I remember if I am having a party or if I go to a party?**

Fighting, loud music, rowdiness, use of alcohol and drugs, and keeping the party going too late, can come under disturbing the peace or laws against the use of alcohol and drugs. (N.R.S. 207.200)

**What if someone crashes my party?**

Crashing a party is trespassing and it is illegal. You should call the police to remove

uninvited guests, if necessary. (N.R.S. 207.200)

## DRUGS AND NARCOTICS

**What are some dangerous drugs?**

1. Hallucinogens, including marijuana, LSD, PCP
2. Stimulants, including cocaine, crank, crack
3. Sedatives, including Valium, alcohol
4. Narcotics, including heroin, opium, morphine  
(N.R.S. 453.041 thru 453.081)

**What amount of drugs do I need in my possession to be arrested?**

The amount of a controlled substance needed to be arrested is only enough to be tested and identified by a qualified person. (N.R.S. 454.535)

**What is considered drug paraphernalia?**

All equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance. (N.R.S. 453.554, 453.566, 453.560)

What are some of the laws about narcotics and dangerous drugs?

It is illegal to:

1. Use, possess, transport, sell, give away or offer any narcotics or dangerous drugs.  
(N.R.S. 453.316 thru 453.331)
2. Use, or be under the influence of dangerous drugs, unless they are prescribed by a licensed person usually a doctor. (N.R.S.454.213, 454.215, 454.221)
3. Encourage, try to sell to, or force any minor to break any of the narcotics.  
(N.R.S.453.316, 453.321, 453.323, 453.326,453.331)
4. Make or use a false or changed prescription. (N.R.S. 454.221)
5. Plant, cultivate, harvest, dry, or process marijuana or other drugs. (N.R.S. 453.554, 453.556, 453.560, 453.566)
6. Possess a hypodermic device or any instrument or means used to inject any illegal drug. (N.R.S. 454.510)
7. Sniff glue or cement with toluene. (N.R.S. 454.346)
8. Use, sell or possess any narcotic or dangerous drug at school or elsewhere.  
(N.R.S. 453.411)
9. Drive on any highway or road while under the influence of drugs. (N.R.S. 453.411, 484.379)



10. Own a pipe or other device used to smoke an illegal substance, or visit or be in any room where an illegal drug is being unlawfully used. (N.R.S.453.041 thru 453.081, 484.379 thru 484.393 453.556, 453.411, 453.401, 453.336)

**If I am caught for using drugs, can I be forced to give a blood and or urine sample?**

Yes, the law states that the bodily fluid of a person determined to be under the influence of a controlled substance is essential evidence. Because this essential evidence can dissipate when you urinate, this allows law enforcement the right to collect this evidence. It can be taken by force if necessary, if a court order is issued prior to the forced collection.

**Can a police officer tell if I'm under the influence of a drug like marijuana or cocaine?**

Yes, a trained specialist in Drug Recognition (DRE) can determine if you are currently under the influence of a controlled substance. The specialist can also tell what type of drug has been used, (marijuana, methamphetamine, etc.) and if the person is under the influence of two or more drugs at the same time. There are currently several Deputies with the Douglas County Sheriff's Office trained in drug recognition.

**If I'm at a party where marijuana is being smoked, and I either smell it or someone blows the smoke in my face, would it show up in my blood or urine?**

No, this question is often asked when juveniles try to convince their parents that they have not used marijuana. Medical statistics have shown that the amount of marijuana necessary to prove positive on a test could only come from a person using the drug or someone who has been exposed to very dense marijuana smoke for several hours.

**Is it true that is a person drinks lemon juice, vinegar or apple juice or eats baking soda**

or “rush” prior to a urine test that will make the urine test negative for drugs?

No, the urine testing used will show only the drug used. Due to a modern process called “Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)”. If this test is positive, then it is confirmed by another process called “Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS)”. This testing method is so sensitive that it can show over the counter drugs like antihistamines, cold remedies and “No Doz”. This method can also show the use of LSD up to three days after use.

If I’m caught under the influence of a controlled substance (without a doctors prescription) can I be sent to Elko or Caliente?

Yes, the law states that it is a felony for a person who is knowingly under the influence of a controlled substance without a doctor’s prescription and can be punished by 1 to 6 years in prison and a \$5,000.00 fine or both for an adult. This is a delinquent act for juveniles and can result in a placement in a state institution.

## TOBACCO

Are there laws about tobacco too?

Yes, it is unlawful to sell or give any tobacco products to anyone under age 18. (N.R.S. 202.2493)

If my parents write a note to someone selling cigarettes, can I buy them?

No, your parents are not allowed to let you buy cigarettes for them. (N.R.S. 202.2493)

Can I falsify a driver’s license to buy cigarettes?

No, it is against the law for a child under 18 years of age to falsely represent that he/she is 18 years or older in order to purchase or obtain cigarettes, cigarette paper, tobacco of any description or products made from tobacco. (N.R.S. 202.2496)

### GRAFFITI

What is “graffiti”?

Any unauthorized inscription, word, figure, or design that is marked, etched, scratched, drawn, or painted on or affixed to public or private property, real or personal of another, which defaces the property.

The penalties for doing “graffiti” or “tagging” can be the same for any delinquent offense, plus, an additional 25 - 50 community service hours for the first offense; 50 - 99 community service hours for the second offense; and 100+ community service hours for each additional offense.

In addition, your parents are financially responsible for any damages that you have done.

### GAMBLING

Can I go into a Casino without my parents?

You can go into the building alone but you must go immediately to an area where gaming devices are not present, i.e. the restroom or a restaurant. You cannot stand by the gaming area to wait for anyone or to watch someone gamble even if your parents are with you.  
(N.R.S. 463.350)

**Can I go into a store that has slot machines or other coin operated machines in them?**

Yes, as long as you have a reason for being in the store and do not stand around the machines. (N.R.S. 463.350)

**Can I play arcade games that pay back money?**

No, these machines are considered gambling devices and are not legal for minors to play.

## CRIMES

**What is a crime?**

A crime is doing something the law says you are not to do or not doing something the law says you have to do.

**Are all crimes the same?**

No, there are four types of crimes:

Felony: the most serious crimes and can result in a commitment to state prison.

Gross Misdemeanor: Less serious crimes that are punishable by imprisonment in

the county jail for not more than 1 year.

Misdemeanor: Least serious crimes; cannot result in commitment to state prison, but rather to county jail for not more than six months.

Infractions: Are the least serious law violations and the sentence for these will not result in a loss of freedom. An example is a traffic citation for which you may pay a fine or do community service hours.

Many offenses may be treated by the court as either a felony, gross misdemeanor or a misdemeanor.

In the juvenile court, any criminal act is referred to as a *delinquent act* rather than called a crime.

What are some crimes I should know about?

It is against the law for you to:

1. Attempt to commit an injury (try to hurt someone) by the use of a chemical or anything that can be used as a weapon. This is **Assault**. (N.R.S. 200.471, 200.480, 200.490)

2. Inflict willful and unlawful use of force or violence upon the person of another. This is **Battery**. (N.R.S. 200.481)

3. Disturb the peace by making loud noises, by fighting or challenging to fight or by publicly using obscene language. This is **Disorderly Conduct**. (N.R.S. 203.010, 203.020, 203.030, 203.040)

4. Take a person's personal property by using force or fear, or by scaring someone into handing over anything which belongs to him or her. This is **Robbery**. (N.R.S. 200.380)
  
5. Buy or accept stolen property. (N.R.S. 205.275)
  
6. Set fire to, or burn any property, including your own. This is **Arson**. (N.R.S. 205.010 thru 205.030)
  
7. Remove, damage, or alter landmarks. (N.R.S. 206.220)
  
8. Have sexual relations with a person under 16, even if they are willing. This is **Sexual Assault**. (N.R.S. 200.366)
  
9. Buy, sell, receive, dispose of, hide or possess any articles from which the serial number or manufacturers marks have been removed, damaged or altered. (N.R.S. 205.271 thru 205.274, 207.250)
  
10. Temporarily take or joy ride in a vehicle without the owner's permission, or steal a car. This is **Unlawful Taking of a Motor Vehicle**. (N.R.S. 205.2715, 205.220)
  
11. Throw or put anything on a roadway that might damage a car, or hurt a person or animal, litter or throw anything burning on a highway or destroy highway signs. (N.R.S. 207.220, 207.270)
  
12. Trespass on school or private property (go on the property) without having a good reason to be there or without permission. (N.R.S. 207.200, 207.270)

13. Steal or take personal property of another. This includes shoplifting. (N.R.S. 205.240)

14. Throw things at, or shoot a weapon at buses, trucks, cars, trains, or airplanes. (N.R.S. 202.290)

15. Damage books, records, pictures, etc. in a public library, exhibition, fair, school or public place. (N.R.S. 206.310)

16. Make annoying phone calls. (N.R.S. 201.255)

17. Make or use slugs or imitation coins in any coin operated machine or telephone. (N.R.S. 205.2705)

18. Abandon, be cruel to or neglect any animal. (N.R.S. 574.110 thru 574.190, 574.050, 574.100)

19. Tamper with a fire alarm box or send a false alarm by a public fire alarm box or other means. (N.R.S. 202.580, 475.080, 475.090, 475.100)

20. Purposely injure or destroy any real or personal property not your own. This is called vandalism. (N.R.S. 206.010)

21. Deface or damage property by paint or other liquids, without the consent of the owner. (N.R.S. 206.010, 206.025)

22. Refuse to disperse or break up a group when asked to by a police officer. (N.R.S. 203.060)

23. Resist arrest, delay or obstruct, or assault a peace officer while doing his job. (N.R.S. 200.481, 199.280)

24. Destroy or tamper with mail boxes or mail, or to interfere with the delivery of mail. It is also a federal crime to steal property of the U.S. Postal Department. (Federal Offense)

25. Knowingly and willfully use an electronic communication device to transmit or distribute a sexual image of himself or herself to another person or to transmit or distribute a sexual image of another minor. This is called **Sexting**. (N.R.S. 200)

26. Manually type or enter text into a cellular telephone or other handheld wireless device or send or read data using any such device or use a cellular telephone or other handheld device to engage in voice communications with another person while operating a motor vehicle. (N.R.S. 484B)

**What happens if I cause another person to break the law?**

If you help another person to commit a crime, you may also have to go to court. You could also go to court if you are with another minor who commits a crime, and you do not try to stop it. This is **Conspiracy**. (N.R.S. 199.480, 195.030)

**What if I lie and make a report which is not true?**

It is a crime to make a false police report or give false information to an officer or turn in a false fire alarm. (N.R.S. 207.280)

**What will happen if I commit a crime?**



That depends on how serious the crime is. You will get a more complete answer to this question in the section called **Juvenile Justice System**.

**What if I don't know that something I did is a crime?**

You are still guilty of a crime, because not knowing a law is no excuse. Just ask yourself if what you are doing will harm or injure a person or property not your own. If it will, it's wrong.

**Being treated as a Adult in the Juvenile System**

Since July 1, 1995, any person 14 years of age or older who is charged with any of the following offenses, may be tried as an adult:

- 1) Sexual Assault involving the use or threatened use of force or violence against the victim.
  
- 2) Any offense involving the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon, or an attempt to commit such an offense. (N.R.S. 62.080)

## GUNS AND WEAPONS

**What is a deadly weapon?**

A deadly weapon is any object that can be used to cause death or serious injury.

**Can I possess a firearm?**

No, any person under 18 years of age shall not handle, or have in their possession or under their control, except while accompanied by, or under the immediate charge of their parent(s) or Guardian, or an Adult authorized by such parent(s) or Guardian. (N.R.S. 202.300)

**What is considered a “firearm”?**

As defined by N.R.S. 202.253, Any device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel by force of any explosion or other form of combustion@.

**Is a BB gun considered a “firearm”?**

Only when carried or possessed on private or public school grounds, or in a public or private school vehicle. (N.R.S. 202.265)

**Nevada law also states that:**

1. It is illegal for someone to sell you a firearm without your parent(s) permission. (N.R.S. 202.310)
2. It is a felony to sell or barter to any juvenile a concealable weapon. (N.R.S. 202.310)
3. You cannot have blackjacks, slingshots, billies, nunchakus, sandclubs, sandbags, or metal knuckles. (N.R.S. 202.350)
4. You cannot possess a knife made from a belt buckle, a switchblade, blackjack,

sling shot, billy, sand club, sandbag, metal knuckles or explosives.

(N.R.S. 202.350)

5. It is illegal to have, carry or give away a switchblade. (N.R.S. 202.350)

6. You cannot possess ANY knife on school grounds. (N.R.S. 202.350)

**What if I carry a weapon just to threaten or scare someone?**

Other than in self defense, it is against the law to threaten anyone or carry a weapon if you intend to hurt someone. (N.R.S. 202.320)

**Are there any laws about where I can or cannot shoot?**

You cannot shoot any firearm from or upon or across a public road or highway. It is against the law to shoot a firearm at or into any house, vehicle building or airport. It is against the law to shoot a firearm near a house or building. It's against the law to shoot a firearm within the limits of a town or city. (N.R.S. 202.285)

## FAMILY LAW

**How are my parents responsible for me? What are their rights and duties?**

Your parent(s) have the rights to custody and control until you are 18 or have married or are declared legally emancipated. In the case of divorce, adoption or removal of your parent(s) control, other arrangements are made by the courts. Custody and control means that parents must provide you with the necessary food, clothing, shelter and medical care. They must furnish support and education according to what they can afford. They cannot desert or abandon you. (N.R.S. 432B.140)

**Can my parents spank me?**

Yes, custody includes the right to discipline you, which can include spanking. They may be as strict as they wish, as long as they do not endanger your health and welfare or seriously injure you when punishing you. (N.R.S. 432B.150)

**Do I have to live where my parents say?**

Yes, you do.

**Do my parents have the right to keep the money I earn?**

Yes, since they take care of you, they are entitled to the services and earnings of their children to use for household expenses or your care. However, parents may give up their right to your earnings if they want to, when you become 18 years old, or if you get married or emancipated. (N.R.S. 123.180)

**What if someone leaves me money or property?**

Your parents have no right to take that, unless a court orders them to use the money to help with your support or education. A guardian must be appointed to receive and manage the property. (N.R.S. 123.180)

**When am I free of my parent(s) control?**

When you reach the age of 18; marry before the age of 18; or enter the military, you become free from your parent(s) control. You are also treated as an adult and assume the responsibilities of an adult. You will have the rights and privileges of adulthood, except

selling, buying or drinking of alcoholic beverages.

**As a single person under the age of 18 is there any way I can be free of my parent(s) control?**

Nevada does have an emancipation law for minors under 18. For this to happen, you must petition the Court for a hearing. The court shall take into consideration:

1. Whether your parents or guardians have consented to the emancipation.
2. If you can support yourself
3. If you are mature enough and knowledgeable enough to manage your affairs.
4. If emancipation is in your best interest.

It could take several months to become emancipated and is very expensive as a private lawyer has to be hired for the court process. (N.R.S. 129.130)

**When can I get married?**

When you are 18 years of age or older. If between 16 and 18 years of age you need the consent of one or both parents in writing. If you are under 16, you need the court's approval. (N.R.S. 122.020)

**What does "parental liability" mean?**

It means your parents are financially, legally and morally responsible for you and what you do until you are 18 years of age. (N.R.S. 41.470)

What are some of the ways in which my parents are responsible for what I do?

Your parents will be required to pay for any act which causes injury or damage to another person or to property, even if someone else has told you to do it. Your parents are responsible:

1. For full damages caused by you to property belonging to a school district and for property lent to you by the school and not returned. (N.R.S. 41.470)
2. For what you do that results in injury or death to another person or in damage to someone else property, up to \$10, 000. 00. (N.R.S. 41.470)
3. For any injury caused by the discharge of a firearm, or if your parent permitted you to have the firearm, or left it where you could take it. (N.R.S. 202.300)
4. If your parent signed for your driver's license and you have an accident while driving, he/she is responsible to the statutory financial limits for injury or death of persons or property damage. (N.R.S. 483.300)
5. If you are 16 years of age or younger, your parents can be ordered to perform Community Service Hours; Attend various forms of Counseling sessions; Participate in Restitution Programs; and even pay for some or all of the attorney fees.

### CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

What is meant by neglect of children?

A child or minor is neglected if:

1. The parent fails to provide food, clothing, shelter or medical and remedial care;
2. The minor is abandoned or deserted by parents.
3. The parent fails to provide support and education (N.R.S. 432B.020)

#### **What is considered abuse of minors?**

Among other things, a minor is abused if any person he or she lives with or who is supposed to take care of him or her;

1. Inflicts unnecessary pain or suffering, or permits the life, body or health of that minor to be in danger. (N.R.S. 200.5011)
2. Inflicts cruel or inhuman physical punishment or injury, wounds or shock upon a minor. (N.R.S. 200.5011)
3. Is constantly drunk or engages immoral acts in the presence of a child. (N.R.S. 432B.100)
4. Commits any sexual act or other criminal act upon or with the body of a minor child, such as incest. (N.R.S. 432B.100)

#### **What should be done if a minor is neglected or abused?**

If anyone knows of any neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse against a minor, they should report it immediately to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office or the Division of Child and Family Services. If this should happen to you at home or any other place, report

it to the police or someone that you trust, and then cooperate with the police as a witness. Even if you are threatened if you tell, you should report it for your own protection and welfare and that of others. (N.R.S. 432B.220)

**Who has to report child abuse and neglect?**

Professional people such as doctors, teachers, social workers, probation officers, etc. are required by law to report all suspected child abuse cases. Not reporting is a misdemeanor and all professionals can be sued for damages in civil court. (N.R.S. 432B.220)

**What happens to me if my parents abuse or neglect me?**

If you are abused, neglected or without anyone to care for you, you will be taken into custody by a police officer, probation officer or social worker who will take you to a safe place. A social worker will interview you and your parents before deciding what to do. The social worker will decide to return you to your parents or arrange for you to appear in Juvenile Court. After hearing from everyone, the court decides what to do. The court can dismiss the case or make you a ward of the court. If you become a ward of the court, the welfare department will arrange for your care and supervision until you turn 18 year old. (N.R.S. 432B.390 432B.470)

**What could happen to my parents?**

Anyone suspected of neglecting or abusing a child could be prosecuted. (N.R.S. 432B.390)

## CURFEW



### **What is Curfew?**

Curfew is a time after which minors cannot be out on the street without lawful business. In Douglas County the curfew is 10:00 p.m. on Sunday thru Thursday and 12:00 am on Friday and Saturday.

### **What will happen if I am stopped or arrested by the Sheriff's Office after curfew?**

If you are stopped by a Police Officer after curfew, it is possible that you will be told to go straight home. If you are arrested by the Police Officer, you will be taken to the Sheriff's Office and turned over to a Probation Officer for possible release to your parents.

## **INCORRIGIBLE**

### **What is an Incurrigible or Unmanageable Child?**

It is an out-of-control juvenile who constantly refuses to obey the reasonable requests of parents or guardians. (N.R.S. 62.040)

In most cases the parent(s) are expected to handle an out-of-control or incurrigible child, without intervention from the local police agencies.

### **What agencies can my parent use if I become out-of-control?**

There is the Family Support Council; Douglas County Mental Health; Private Counselors and West Hills Hospital, just to list a few.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

**What is meant by the Juvenile Justice System?**

The Juvenile Justice System is a group of legal institutions set up by state law which deal with problems of children and young people under the age of 18. (N.R.S. 62.020)

### THE LEGAL PROCESS

**Suppose an Officer stops me for something other than a traffic violation?**

A Police Officer can, without warrant, take you into temporary custody if he has reasonable cause to believe you are under 18 and have violated curfew, or are beyond control, are physically dangerous, in need of medical or emergency care or have broken the law. A Police Officer can search you for weapons and use reasonable means to prevent your escape or resistance. (N.R.S. 62.170)

**What if I have broken a law?**

If you are taken into temporary custody because you are suspected of breaking a law, the officer must tell you the reason for arrest. (N.R.S. 62.170-180 and 193.265)

**Then what happens?**

After the officer has finished questioning you, the police can then:

1. Release you and take no further action.

2. Release you and send a request for follow up to the Probation Department.
3. Take you directly to the Sheriff's Office for booking, where you will be released to a probation officer.

If you are required to meet with a Probation Officer, you will have to appear with your parents at a time set by the Probation Department. The Probation Officer will inform you and your parents of the charges against you, and after discussing the situation the Probation Officer can:

1. Warn you about further criminal action and counsel you in preventing future action and then release you to your parents.
2. Refer you to services in your community.
3. Place you on informal probation after the incident is discussed with the District Attorney.
4. Request that the District Attorney take action for you to appear before the Juvenile Court to be placed on Formal Probation. (N.R.S. 62.128)

## JUVENILE HALL

**What is Juvenile Hall?**

Juvenile Hall is a place for temporarily keeping minors who have committed delinquent or

some status offenses. Minors who are in Juvenile Hall are awaiting action by a Probation Officer, by the Juvenile Court, or are being kept there for a certain length of time after judgment of the Court. The length of time varies depending on the case. (N.R.S. 62.180)

### **If I'm taken to Juvenile Hall, how long will I stay?**

If you are taken to Juvenile Hall the Probation Officer is required by law to investigate why you are there. The law does not allow the Probation Officer to keep you in Juvenile Hall unless it appears necessary to:

1. Protect you or others, or their property.
2. There is no responsible adult to take custody.
3. You are in violation of an existing court order.
4. That there are circumstances indicating that you may run away or leave Court jurisdiction.

In some cases you can be released under a house arrest program. If the probation officer decides that you should stay at Juvenile Hall, a detention hearing will be set for you within 72 hours. The time starts when the police officer takes you into temporary custody and does not include weekends or holidays. You have the right to request a detention hearing within 24 hours. The request must be made in writing and can be done any time prior to your 72 hour hearing. At the detention hearing the judge will listen to what you, your parents, your lawyer and the probation officer have to say and will make a decision whether you are to return home or be detained until a court hearing set at a later date. (N.R.S. 62.170)

## JUVENILE COURT

### What is Juvenile Court?

The Juvenile Court is a special division of the District Court established to handle all matters for young persons under 18 who have been referred for violations of the law.

### Why should I be sent to Juvenile Court?

You can be required to go to Juvenile Court if it is necessary to make you a ward of the court. You become a ward of the court if:

1. You constantly refuse to obey the reasonable and proper orders of your parents, guardian or custodian.
2. You violate a State or County ordinance, or violate a criminal law.
3. You continue to be truant or beyond control of the school authorities.

### What happens if I go to Juvenile Court?

If you go to Juvenile Court, you, your parents, and your lawyer (if you choose to have one) will have a chance to tell your side of what happened. You have the right to have witnesses brought to Court on your behalf, and the right to question those witnesses brought by the District Attorney to offer evidence against you. After listening to both sides the Judge may decide that the charge against you is not true and close the case.

If the judge decides that you have committed an offense however, he can send your case back to the Probation Officer for the preparation of a court report. This will

include a study of you and your family, a description of the offense, an officer's evaluation and a recommendation to the court.

The Juvenile Judge can decide to let you return home under Probation Supervision. Special conditions of Probation can require you to work in the community, pay back a victim for damages, or obtain counseling.

The court can have you placed in an outside placement such as a foster home, or other residential setting or can commit you to the China Spring Youth Camp, Aurora Pines Girls Facility or the Nevada Youth Training Centers for boys or girls. (N.R.S. 62.193, 195,197,200)

If you are 14 years of age or older, or commit certain violent crimes, you can be tried and SENTENCED as an adult rather than a juvenile. This can include being sent to Jail or Prison.

Murder or Attempted Murder is always referred directly to the adult system regardless of the age of the person accused of committing the crime.

**Is it possible for me to be certified as an adult and sent to prison if I commit a felony crime?**

Yes, the laws in Nevada allow the court to file a motion to certify any juvenile 14 years or older to adult status if they have committed a felony. After the certification is complete, the juvenile is held in the adult facility and sentenced as such. (N.R.S. 62.080)

### JUVENILE TRAFFIC COURT

The Juvenile Traffic Court is a part of the Juvenile Court which deals with certain traffic, infraction or misdemeanor offenses committed by minors.

**What if I am charged with a traffic violation?**

Your parent(s) will receive a notice allowing you to either admit or contest the citation.

If you elect to admit the citation, you will be ordered to pay a fine.

**What happens if I contest a traffic citation?**

The Probation Officer will discuss the citation with the District Attorney. If a plea agreement is not reached, a petition will be filed and the matter will go to a court hearing before a judge. You will have the opportunity to call witnesses and question witnesses called by the District Attorney's Office. The Judge will make the decision on the disposition of the citation. The judge can order you to pay a fine, do community service hours, or can suspend your driver's license for a period of time. The court will not appoint an attorney for you. You must manage the trial yourself, your parents cannot do it for you.

As of July 1, 1995, your name, as well as your parent=s names may be published in the local paper if you go to Court.

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**What is the Probation Department?**

The Probation Department is a special branch of the Court System. Except for a few exceptions, the Juvenile Probation Department deals only with persons under 18 years of age. (N.R.S. 62.110, 62.117, 62.050, 060 070)

**What does "On Probation" mean?**

It means that you are allowed to return home to follow certain rules and conditions set by the juvenile court, under the direct supervision of a Probation Officer.

**When does Probation end?**

In some cases, you can be on probation for a set length of time or until you have met special conditions required by the court. In other cases the time cannot be set. Probation supervision will continue until the Probation Officer recommends to the court that it be ended. You can return to court for violating orders of the court. You can also be kept on probation until your 21st birthday. (N.R.S. 62.070, 62.200-2)

**Can my Juvenile record be closed?**

Yes. If three years or more have elapsed after discharge from the court, you can make application to the court to have your file sealed. Sealing a record is done automatically by Nevada law when you reach your 21st birthday. (N.R.S. 62.275)

## SCHOOL

**Do I have to go to school?**

Yes, you do. It is the responsibility of your parents or guardian to see that you go to school full time from age 7 to 17. It is also the duty of your parent or guardian to re-enroll you into a new district if you move.

**What can my parents do and not do about schools?**



They have the right to see your school records, and to talk to the teachers and school officials about you. A student having reached the age of 17 can discuss his records in the same way his parents can.

Your parents can disagree with the teachers or administrators, but they cannot insult or abuse the teachers or administrators.

Your parents can refuse permission to the school for you to have a physical or psychological examination. They must be notified and give their written permission before you can be given a questionnaire, survey or examination regarding your parents or your personal belief, sex practices, family life or religion. (N.R.S. 392.420-5)

They also have the right to decide whether or not you will attend sex education classes and to see films used in such classes.

Your parents or guardians are liable for all damages caused by you to persons or property of the school, and for all property such as books, which have been loaned to you and not returned.

### **What are my duties as a student?**

You must obey lawful school rules and orders, follow the course of study and respect your teacher's authority.

You must attend school regularly and on time; you must obey school rules, obey the directions of your teachers and others in authority; observe good order, attend to your studies, respect teachers and others in authority; be kind and courteous to other students. You cannot hit, swear at or abuse school employees.

While on the school grounds or under school supervision you are required to avoid unlawful activity, including; sexual behavior, swearing, drinking, gambling, using dangerous drugs, or using or having tobacco, unless the school district permits the use of tobacco.

You cannot do anything that injures other students or school employees or damages school property. If you cause personal injury or property damage to the school, you can be suspended or expelled. In addition, you and your parents can be held

financially responsible. (N.R.S. 393.070)

### **What is the job of teachers and administrators?**

Teachers are required to hold students responsible for their conduct going to, coming from, at school, and at any school activity.

Every teacher in the public school must enforce the course of study, the use of certain textbooks, and the rules and regulations required by law.

The school cannot permit violation of State or Local laws and must see that school rules are obeyed.

School personnel cannot physically harm or injure a student and may not use physical punishment. They may, however, use an amount of force reasonable and necessary for self-defense or to protect other persons or property.

### **Can teachers or administrators open my school locker, purse, or car and search it?**

Under certain circumstances, school administrators can search your locker, request that you empty contents of lockers and or purses, and question you about suspected thefts without informing you of your constitutional rights. In some schools, your car, moped, motorcycle, or other vehicle can be searched by school personnel if your conduct or the welfare of school and other students is involved.

### **Can I go to a private school?**

Yes, if the school has competent teachers and meets certain state standards.

### **Are there school programs for Handicapped minors?**

Yes, both the Federal Government and the State of Nevada require programs for every

kind of handicap.

## TRUANCY

If you are absent from school for any portion of a day without a legal or valid excuse acceptable to your teacher or principal, you shall be deemed a truant child, even if you miss only one class, and school officials must report this truancy to your parents in writing. You can be deemed a truant for any succeeding unexcused absence. (N.R.S. 392.130)

If your parents fail to keep you in school, they can be taken to court by the District Attorney's Office on a misdemeanor violation. (N.R.S. 62.040)

### **What is a Suspension?**

It is temporary removal from school. You can be suspended from class for up to 10 days by the principal or his agent if he finds good cause.

When you are suspended, your parents or guardian must be notified and a meeting held with them. At that time, they must discuss why you were suspended, what school rules you broke, and how long the suspension should last.

The periods of suspension can vary from school district to school district. (N.R.S. 392.467)

### **What is an Expulsion?**

It means that you are kicked out of school for good cause. The school district board makes the final decision to expel. When you are expelled from one school you cannot

attend any other school in that district. (N.R.S. 392.467)

### What is "Good Cause"?

It includes, but is not limited to:

1. Continued willful disobedience
2. Constant swearing or vulgarity
3. Open and constant defiance of the authority to the school personnel.
4. Continued abuse of the school personnel.
5. Threat of force or violence directed at school personnel at any time or place.
6. Smoking or having tobacco on school premises when not allowed.
7. Using, possessing, or selling, dangerous drugs.
8. Damaging school property. (N.R.S. 391.311)

### Do I have any way to defend myself from being suspended or expelled?

If you are facing suspension, you and your parents or guardians should attend the meeting which is called to consider your case. There, you can present your side of the problem.

If you are in danger of being expelled, there is a system of rules to follow, including a hearing which you or your parents or guardians should attend. A notice will be

sent 10 days before the hearing. If the board decides to expel you, you or your parents or your guardians have 30 days to appeal the decision to the District Court which will then hold a hearing about the matter. The courts decision is final.

**Is it wrong to hang around school grounds after school is dismissed?**

It is wrong unless you have some lawful business there. Otherwise it is considered loitering which is a misdemeanor.

It is against the law to pick on or sexually annoy any child under the age of 18. (N.R.S. 392.480, 207.270, 393.070)

## HUNTING AND FISHING

**Can I go hunting?**

A hunting license is required before you can hunt any bird or fur bearing animal. All hunters have to carry their licenses and be ready to show them when asked. Licenses are usually sold at places that sell sporting goods. Licenses are good from January 1 to December 31 of each calendar year. You must have your parent(s) or an adult authorized by your parent(s) with you at all times while you are hunting. (N.R.S. 502.010)

**How do I get a License?**

You must have:

1. A hunting license from a previous year, or
2. Proof that you once held such a license, or
3. A certificate from a Hunter Safety Training Course conducted in Nevada or

approved by the state Department of Wildlife

4. Parental permission.

(N.R.S. 502.330-340)

**How do I get this Certificate of Competence?**

You get a certificate of competence by attending a class on Hunter Safety, Conservation and Sportsmanship. This course is taught by a teacher chosen by the Department of Wildlife. A Hunters Safety Course is sponsored by the Douglas County Sheriff's Department. (N.R.S. 502.340)

**Can I sell what I kill?**

No, it is against the law to sell or buy any bird or animal taken under a hunting license.

**Do I have to get a fishing license?**

Only if you are 12 years or older. (N.R.S. 407.0475)

## CAMPING

**Where can I camp?**

In public areas that are marked for camping. That includes National Parks, State Parks, County Parks, and other areas set aside for camping. Most of the cities of our county and state have laws against camping in City Parks. Do not camp on private property without permission because that is trespassing. (N.R.S. 407.0475)

It is important that you follow the rules for campers in the Parks rules about littering, fishing and hunting, the use of fire, noise and other ways of disturbing the peace. Check the rules before setting up your camp.

## BOATING

**Are there rules about boating?**

Yes, the laws which control the use of boats and other small craft in the waters and reservoirs of the Nevada Inland Water System are the same as those of the Federal Rules in most cases.

You do not need a license to operate a boat. It is a good idea to get a Safety Certificate or have training from some qualified person, but it is not required.

If you are planning to go boating, know how to operate the boat safely. Know speed limits, how, where and when to tow water skiers. If you have an accident, you can be sued for injuries or damage to property. You can receive a citation for breaking the law, and may have to appear in Juvenile Court. (N.R.S.488.025 -185 thru 285.)

## PARKS

Parks are public places for everyone to use and enjoy. The rules should be checked and carefully followed when you are in a park. In addition to county laws, most cities have their own rules posted in their parks.

Rules include closing times, bicycle and vehicle rules, use of guns and weapons, disturbing the peace, use of fire, littering, loitering, use of drugs and alcohol, and morals offenses.

## BICYCLES

What does the term “bicycle” include?

A bicycle is a device propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having two tandem wheels. (N.R.S. 484.019)

Are there laws for bicycles?

Yes, every person riding a bicycle on a roadway or any paved shoulder of a roadway must obey all that the driver of a car must obey. This means that you can be stopped by a policeman if you break one of the laws, and may have to go to Court. (N.R.S. 484.503)

Do I need any special equipment?

Every bicycle must:

1. Have a brake that will make at least one wheel skid on dry pavement.
2. Have handlebars that are lower than your shoulders.
3. Have a permanent seat for the rider.
4. Be of a size that you can stop safely and easily and be supported upright with one foot on the ground.
5. You must have reflectors on the back, each pedal and each side of the bicycle for riding after dark.



## What road rules should I know?

1. Don't ride on sidewalks.
2. Ride in bicycle lanes, if one is provided.
3. Ride as close to the right hand side of the roadway as you can if there is no bicycle lane. Ride in the same direction as the cars are going.
4. Come to a stop at red lights and stop signs.
5. Don't carry another person on the handlebars. You might not be able to stop if you need to. You cannot carry passengers unless there is a seat for one.
6. Don't hitch yourself and your bicycle to a car or other motor vehicle.
7. Always keep at least one hand on the handle bars when you carry things.
8. Know your signals and use them.
9. Give right of way to cars and pedestrians.
10. When crossing streets, it is a good idea to get off your bicycle and walk across in the pedestrian crosswalk.

## Are there any other laws?

It is against the law to remove, or to buy, sell or possess a bicycle that has the serial

number taken off.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

**What is considered to be a motor vehicle?**

A motor vehicle is any vehicle that runs on its own power - it has a motor. Including cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, motor scooters, motor bikes, mini bikes, go carts, mopeds, and so forth. There are laws governing the use of all motor vehicles. (N.R.S. 484.081)

**Are there laws about mini-bikes and motor scooters, as well as motorcycles?**

Yes, the same laws apply to all motor vehicles, except for a few cases listed in the Motor Vehicle section. No motor vehicle can be driven on public roads unless it is registered. Since most mini-bikes are not registered, they can't be driven on the street. If your motor vehicle is registered you must still have a driver's license to drive it on the public roadways. You must have insurance for all vehicles driven on public roadways. All motor vehicles have to be built and equipped to meet legal requirements for lights, brakes, windshields, etc. If you don't have a driver's license, your parents can be taken to court if they allow you to. You drive any motor vehicle on a public road or sidewalk. You also can be taken to court.

Since mini-bikes, mopeds, go carts, and all other small vehicles are often involved in serious accidents, they should be used carefully. Anyone driving one of these vehicles which do not meet Department of Motor Vehicle Code Standards should do so only:

A. On private property after permission has been obtained.

B. Under adult supervision and control.

C. While wearing protective headgear and clothing.

(N.R.S. 486.061)

### **What about Mopeds (Motorized Bicycles)?**

1. A driver's license is required to operate a moped. If you are between 15 1/2 and 17 1/2 you can operate a moped after you obtain an instruction permit for that purpose and after you have completed both Drivers Education and Drivers Training. When operating a moped with a valid instruction permit, you cannot carry a passenger and you cannot ride after dark.

2. Mopeds cannot be operated on sidewalks, bicycle paths, horse trails, or freeways. They can be driven in bikes lanes on the side of a roadway.

3. It is illegal to modify a moped so that it will exceed 30 miles per hour on level ground.

4. You do not have to register a moped with the Department of Motor Vehicles.  
(N.R.S. 483.230)

### **What if I just borrow a friend's Motor Vehicle?**

As the driver, you are responsible if something goes wrong with the vehicle or is illegal about the vehicle, even though it is just borrowed.

### **How fast may I go with a Motor Vehicle?**

Although Nevada law set a limit of 55 miles per hour, there is a basic speed law which

you need to know. It says that the proper speed is one that is right for the weather, the visibility, traffic surface and condition of the road, and which does not cause a danger to people or property. This can be slower than the posted speed limit, but never faster.

(N.R.S. 484.361)

### **What about Motorcycles?**

All of these laws apply to them too, but there are additional laws which riders of motorcycles must observe. You can find all of these laws for motorcycles and other motor vehicles in the Nevada Drivers Handbook, which you can get free at any Department of Motor Vehicles Office.

(N.R.S. 486.041)

**Can I get a Traffic Ticket if my lights are not working or something else is wrong, even if I do not know about it?**

Yes, because it is your responsibility to keep your vehicle in good working condition.

(N.R.S. 486.201)

### **What should I do if I am stopped and given a ticket?**

If you are stopped and an officer issues you a citation for a traffic violation or any other violation, you must sign the citation even if you feel that you are not guilty. Your signature on the citation is not an admission of guilt, only a promise to appear in court.

### **What if I hit another vehicle or damage property and the owner isn't there?**

If you are involved in an accident, you are required by law to stop your vehicle, give your name, address, registration information, and if asked, show your driver's license.

Give first aid if you can, and notify the police as soon as you can.

Above all, don't leave the scene of the accident. Hit and Run is a serious offense. If you hit a parked car and the owner isn't there, leave the information on the outside of the vehicle or property where it is easily seen. (N.R.S. 484.251)

**Do I have to get a license to drive a motor vehicle?**

If you want to use public roads, you need a license for the type of vehicle you are going to drive. (N.R.S. 483.300)

## DRIVER'S LICENSE

**Where can I get an Instruction Permit?**

Anyone who is 15 1/2 years old or older can apply to the Department of Motor Vehicles for an instruction permit. An instruction permit is required if you are learning to drive on public roads. An instruction permit does not allow you to drive alone - you must have a qualified adult driver with you at all times. The qualified adult driver must have a drivers license and must be 21 years of age or older.

**How can I get a Drivers License?**

You can apply for a license at any office of the Department of Motor Vehicles. To get your license, you must:

1. Pass a test on the rules of the road.
2. Pass an eye test.
3. Pass a driving test.

#### 4. Pay a fee.

Your parent or guardian has to sign the application for your driver's license or change of license classification. (N.R.S. 483.310, 483.320)

**When my parents sign for my license, what does that mean for them?**

Your parents can be held financially responsible if you should be involved in an accident. In the case of an injury where it is your fault, you and your parents can become liable for damage to health and property which could cause you to continue paying even after you turn 18 years of age. Because your parents must sign for your Drivers License at the time of application, they also have the right to take your driver's license away from you, at any time, until you turn 18.

**Is it possible for me to lose my driving privilege if I am convicted of an alcohol and/or drug related offense?**

Yes, your driver's license may be suspended for up to TWO (2) years if you have been found guilty of using, possessing, or selling alcohol and/or drugs.  
(N.R.S. 62.226, 484.379, 453.411, 453.336, 453.337, 453.338)

**What if I don't yet have any driver's license when I was caught using alcohol and/or drugs?**

If a person is 14 to 17 years of age, the court may issue an order prohibiting that person from applying for a Driver's License for a period of up to TWO (2) years.

## PEDESTRIANS

### **What are Pedestrian rules?**

A person who is walking is a pedestrian. Pedestrians should always use sidewalks if there are any. If there are no sidewalks, they should walk close to the left hand edge of the roadway facing the traffic.

If you are a pedestrian, you have the right of way in crosswalks, whether or not they are marked by white lines.

If there are signal lights on both corners of the road, you cannot cross or jaywalk in the middle of the block. If there are no signals, or a signal on only one corner, you can cross in the middle of the block if you don't interfere with the traffic.

Douglas County does have a county ordinance that prohibits jaywalking.

## HITCH-HIKING

### **Is it Illegal to walk along the highway?**

If there are sidewalks provided, it is illegal for anyone to walk along or on a highway. If there are no sidewalks provided, the pedestrian must walk along the left side of the highway and facing approaching traffic.

Is it legal to Hitch-hike?

No person shall walk or stand in a highway for the purpose of getting a ride or soliciting business from a driver or occupant of a vehicle. (N.R.S. 484.331)

Is it illegal to walk along a road after drinking?

Yes, no person can be within a traveled portion of a roadway when he has been drinking or under the effects of a drug. (N.R.S. 484.331)

### SKATE BOARDS AND ROLLER SKATES

Are there laws for Skateboards?

There are no state laws governing skateboards. However, Douglas County does have an ordinance that prohibits people from riding skateboards on sidewalks within business districts. You are responsible if you hurt someone while riding a skate board. In addition you may have your skateboard confiscated by the Sheriff's Department for a time. If you continue to violate these ordinances, the court may order the removal of your skateboard from your possession.

Are there any laws regarding Roller Skating?

There is a county ordinance which prohibits roller skating on sidewalks or public streets.

### BABYSITTING



## Are there any special laws for Babysitting?

No, but the recommended age for babysitting is 14 or older. Other good suggestions are:

1. Check the children often.
2. Never leave the home until the parents return.
3. Do not open the door to anyone unless the parents have given their approval.
4. Do not take advantage by making too much noise, eating too much food, cluttering the house.
5. Do not have friends visit you.
6. Work only for persons approved by your parents.
7. Do not use the telephone unnecessarily.
8. Get a list of emergency numbers, and the number where the parents can be reached.

## WORK

### Do I need a permit to work?

Work permits are required for all minors under 14 years of age. Certain restrictions apply to hours and certain dangerous occupations for minors under 16 years of age. (N.R.S. 609.245, 609.190, 609.250)

### Are there any times when I do not need a work permit?

You do not need a work permit for babysitting, mowing lawns, doing odd jobs, or having a paper route. You also do not need a work permit when you are working for your parents or guardians, on their own premises or where they operate or control a business.

**How many hours a day can I work?**

No child under 16 years of age can work more than 48 hours in one week, or more than 8 hours in one day, except in your own family business or farm.

**How can I get a work permit?**

You can get a work permit from the Juvenile Court if your parents sign the necessary application form.

**When I have a work permit, can I work anywhere?**

No. You cannot work in the following occupations until you are at 16 years of age:

1. On or near moving machinery.
2. In a manufacturing business.
3. Around dangerous acids, paints or dust.
4. In a bowling alley, pool or billiard hall.
5. On a railroad or boat.
6. In certain buildings or construction work.
7. In delivering goods by motor vehicles.
8. In mining, logging or sawmill operations.
9. With tobacco
10. In any occupation dangerous to health or morals to minors.

(N.R.S. 609.190)

**What should I be paid?**

At least minimum wage with few exceptions. (N.R.S. 281.370, 338.125)

**What if I am not paid enough according to the law?**

Your parents can sue the employer or you can make a complainant to the Nevada Commissioner of Labor.

**Is it alright for me to sell door to door?**

Door to door selling is controlled by law. In most cities and towns you must register for a permit. If you are taking part in a School Fund Drive, or a special Organization Fund Drive, you do not need a permit to contact families, neighbors, and friends, but you should have some type of identification with you.

### YOUR RIGHTS AS A JUVENILE

**What are your rights if you get into trouble with the law?**

Most parents don't expect their children to get into trouble with the law, but a surprisingly large number of youngsters do. In the event you get into trouble or are accused of a crime, the following rules should be kept in mind when dealing with the police.

1. Never resist arrest, no matter how unreasonable the arrest may seem. Resisting arrest is, in itself illegal.

2. If you are arrested and taken to a police station, your parents will be contacted

as soon as possible. You don't have to talk to anyone about the offense until your parents are with you.

3. If an arrest is made, you could suffer consequences if convicted of either a misdemeanor or a felony, and the decision to go forward with a lawyer should be made with your parents.

4. If a police officer comes to your home to search the premises and neither parent nor adult guardians are home, politely tell the officer to come back when an adult has returned, unless he or she has a search or arrest warrant.

5. Your parents might be upset or even furious with you if you are caught breaking the law, but facing the music at home is a great deal less serious than facing legal consequences alone in a police station. Many officers in police stations report that some children are so afraid of their parent's anger that they won't readily give their names or other identifying information that they are required to give. When that happens, notification to parents is often delayed and end result could be placement in detention until proper notification can be made.

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