

Guide for parents, children and young people

Conseils régionaux de prévention et de sécurité (CRPS)

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Authorities, schools, and parents: a necessary teamwork



Young people today enjoy a lot of personal freedom. To help navigate this freedom, and to offer parental support, this guide contains quotes from existing laws, which may serve as important reference points to the reader.

Parents need to recognise potential problems and to seek external help, before it is too late.

Everybody involved in education must be aware of the role they play, as well as their responsibilities, with focus on core values such as dialogue, respect etc.

Children and young people need to know the law, in order not to break it, adults to be able to guide them and authorities to coordinate their actions.

Hence the prefects, the police, the schools, the communes and the linked associations of every district are a part of the regional council for prevention and security (CRPS). Amongst other things they are responsible for parental information.

The present guide was created by a CRPS delegation based on a text from Lausanne.

Alcohol

The licensing law prohibits serving and offering alcohol to persons under the age of 16. Beer and wine: illegal to under 16s. Alcopops, mixed drinks, cocktails, aperitifs, and alcoholic drinks: Illegal to under 18s.



The consumption of alcohol is considered a health risk for everybody. Since the attraction of alcohol may start at an early age, attention must be paid to warning signals (apathy, truancy etc.).

Particular attention should be paid to the health risks of „binge drinking“ and other excessive leisure time indulgences.

Tobacco

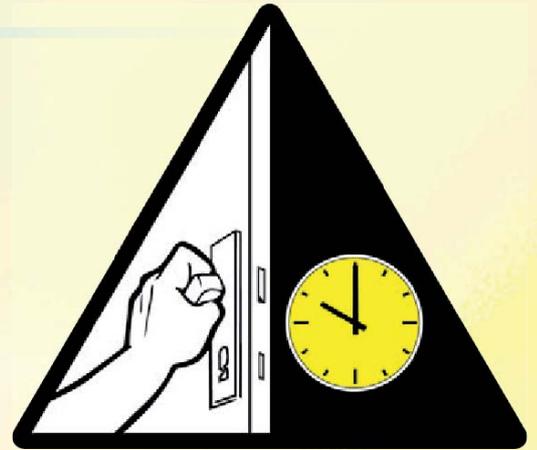
The school legislation states that pupils are not allowed to drink alcohol or smoke. Minors (younger than 18) are not allowed to buy cigarettes.



The consumption of tobacco is the main reason for illnesses and casualties in our country. The earlier one starts to smoke the higher the risk of becoming addicted.

Night clubbing and public events

Children under 16 are allowed to stay out until 10 pm. If the parents permit their children to stay out longer (cinema, club meeting etc), they have to go home straight after the event has finished.

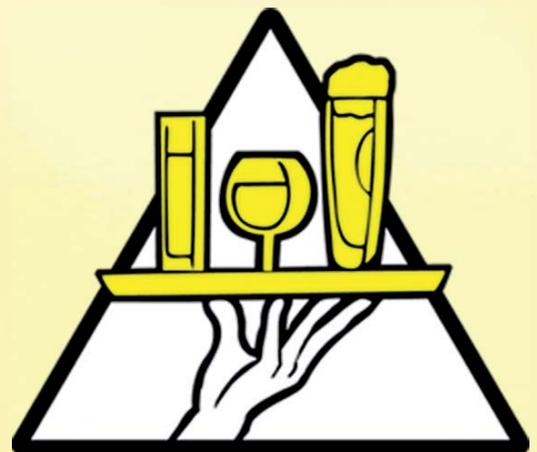


Be careful of frequent outings and the resulting tiredness!
The recommended age limits for cinema-goers are compulsory. Mobile discos, parties at youth associations, festivals etc. must not be attended by children under the age of 16.

Public institutions

Children under 16 not accompanied by an adult or a legal guardian are not allowed to stay in cafés, restaurants, bars, pubs, discos unless carrying a letter of consent.

Amusement halls and cyber cafés are prohibited to under 16s unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal representative. People under 18 are not allowed into night clubs.



The letter of consent must bear the name, address, and telephone number of the parents, the name and birth date of the child, as well as the name of the location the child is allowed to visit. The letter of consent, which must be dated and signed, can only be issued:

until 6 pm for 10 to 11-year-olds
until 8 pm for 12 to 16-year-olds.

Weapons

Firearms (guns, airsoft guns, handguns etc.) are prohibited to minors. Automatic knives, „Spyderco“ knives, and butterfly knives longer than 5 cm (blade) or 12 cm (total length) are illegal. Objects likely to cause injury (knuckle duster, bludgeons, nunchucks etc.) are strictly forbidden. The use of everyday objects (baseball bats, cutter, bottles etc.) intended to cause injury is also against the law.



According to school legislation, pupils are not allowed to bring dangerous objects to school, not even to defend themselves. Toy weapons resembling real weapons (pellet pistols etc.) are prohibited to minors (arms law).

Administrative offence/violence

www.petitchaperonrouge.com

www.profa.org

A child or an adult can be punished by law, if they commit or take part in the following administrative offences:



If a minor becomes victim of blackmailing or sexual harassment, he/she must be able to talk to his/her parents or another grown-up about it - and be taken seriously. Furthermore, such offences must be reported to the police (tel. 117). in order to be punished. The consequences may be substantial such as financial sanctions (compensation), administrative penalties or criminal procedures (juvenile court).

Public space

Besides criminal procedures damaging public and private property can entail considerable costs for the families of the offender. It is advisable to carry an identity card.



When in public minors have to follow the same rules as grown-ups. The police regulations clearly prohibit the following acts:

- spitting and urinating
- playing dangerous games
- littering

Drugs

www.ciao.ch

www.infoset.ch/inst/depart

The law prohibits the production, storage, sale, purchase and consumption of all kinds of drugs, regardless of whether they are „soft“, "synthetic" or "hard".



Drugs are a serious health risk.

Since the attraction of drugs may start at an early age, attention must be paid to warning signals (apathy, truancy etc.).

Internet - chats - blogs - social networks - sms - mms - fotos - cell phones

The law protects the private sphere, as well as the privacy of individuals (as a couple, within the family, or at work). It is therefore possible to prosecute anyone taking and subsequently publishing (Internet) private pictures without the consent of the people portrayed.

Abuses and threats through text messages, blogs, chats, and social networks (Facebook) are liable to prosecution.



www.prevention-web.ch

www.espaceressources.ch

www.actioninnocence.org

www.petitchaperonrouge.com

Talk to your child about using the Internet and the web sites he/she is interested in.

Encourage your child to tell you of disturbing/shocking contents.

Tell your child what is not tolerable to you, what you cannot approve of.

Raise your child's awareness of the fact that not everything found on the Internet is necessarily true.

Inform your child about the dangers of sharing personal data (name etc.)

Do not leave small children alone in front of a computer screen.

Place the computer in a room used by the entire family.

Spend time understanding the way your child navigates the Internet.

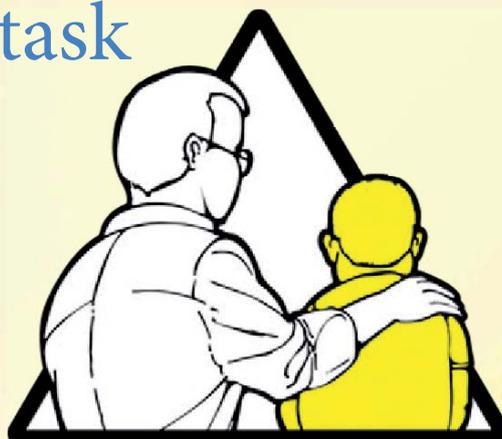
Put up a „family time schedule“ that includes limits:

length and times of Internet sessions, forbidden web sites, rules for the exchange of information. Caution:

- never disclose the name, address, landline or cell phone number, or computer password in a chat or e-mail
- do not chat with strangers
- never forget that computer networks are public domain

Parenting: an important task

According to civil law, parents or legal guardians are responsible for children under the age of 18.



- www.lafamily.ch
- www.telme.ch tél. 147
- www.espaceressources.ch
- www.jardin-des-parents.ch
- www.entraidefamilialevaudoise.com

Law

References to the legal foundations

- Loi Scolaire
- Règlement de la loi scolaire
- Loi sur les auberges et débits de boisson
- Règlement communal de police

Here parents may find:

- what the law states regarding minors
- some hints and useful web sites
- a reminder of the importance of talking to your child, including the formulation of rules respecting the duties and rights of the child.

Being a parent is not always easy. Reading this guide may raise many questions. To answer these questions, you can always contact school staff, people from the social or educational sector, the police, the youth protection, or various others helpful associations -simply dial 147.

