

# Facts to know about Youth & The Law in Royal Oak

## Children Under 17 Years of Age

- Considered a minor
- Under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court; the court's purpose is to help young people through applied guidance and control
- Depending on the offense and past delinquency record, police and prosecutors make a determination whether to petition the court or apply diversion, allowing the juvenile to be placed in counseling and community service programs (usually through Youth Assistance)
- Royal Oak Police Department will notify parents if their child is arrested

## 17 Years or Older

- Considered an adult
- Juvenile procedures do not apply
- The Police Department may notify parents when a 17 year old child is arrested

## Juveniles May Be Treated as Adults

- Juveniles as young as 14 years of age may be tried as an adult and given an adult sentence for serious crimes like:
  - Murder
  - Arson
  - Attempted murder
  - Crimes that inflict serious injury
  - Possession of narcotics (650 grams or more)

## Curfew

- 16 years of age and under: 10:30 pm – 6:00 am
- Minors are not allowed on public streets or in public places such as parks during curfew hours
- Exceptions include:
  - when the minor is accompanied by a parent or other family member who is at least 18 years of age
  - when coming from a school, church or civic function attended with parental permission
  - in the course of employment
- The minor can be petitioned to juvenile court for violating curfew

## Explosives and Firearms

- It is unlawful to manufacture, possess, provide or detonate any type of homemade or acquired explosive device or make a threat to do so
- It is unlawful to discharge any firearm, air rifle, air pistol or bow and arrow in the city except when lawfully acting in defense of persons or property

## False Identification

- A person under 21 years of age using, altering or providing false identification for use in purchasing alcoholic beverages is guilty of a misdemeanor
- Possessing an altered driver's license is a misdemeanor
- Driver's license will be suspended

## Alcohol

- It is unlawful for anyone under 21 years of age to purchase, possess or consume alcohol. Even if alcohol is detected on the breath, the minor can be in violation
- It is unlawful to provide alcohol to a minor, and a person may be sued for the resulting actions of the minor
- Zero tolerance for drivers under 21 years of age; the blood alcohol content (BAC) cannot exceed .02%

If you have questions, please call the  
Royal Oak Police Department  
(248) 246-3424

## Alcohol or Drugs at Social Gatherings

- It is unlawful to host or allow a social gathering where illegal drugs are present or alcohol is in use by anyone under 21 years of age
- Parents may face criminal and civil liability, even if not present
- City ordinance allows officers to enforce excessive noise and disorderly behavior violations

## Controlled Substance

- It is unlawful to possess, in any shape or form, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, heroin, etc. or any drug not prescribed by a licensed physician
- Added penalties apply if the offense occurs within 500 feet of a school or park
- Vehicles and property may be forfeited
- Minors may face driver's license suspension even if a vehicle is not involved

## Incorrigibility/Truancy

- Minors must obey parents/guardians and follow house rules.
- Minors must attend school

## Loitering

- Remaining in an area with no obvious reason so as to obstruct free and uninterrupted flow of the public

## Malicious Destruction of Property

- Intentionally damaging public or private property belonging to another

## Mopeds

- Driver must be 15 years of age and possess a valid moped or automobile driver license
- The driver must have a valid registration sticker and possess the registration form
- No passengers are allowed, even if there is a passenger seat
- Moped riders under 19 years of age must wear a Department of Transportation (DOT) approved helmet
- The driver may only operate the moped in the street and must obey all traffic laws

## Parental Responsibility Ordinance in Royal Oak

The City of Royal Oak City Code Section 278-34.2, which was approved by the Royal Oak City Commission on November 20, 2006, requires the parent or guardian of a child 17 years of age or younger to exercise "reasonable control" to prevent the child from committing a crime or any other act that would bring the child under the jurisdiction of the Family Division of the Oakland County Circuit Court.

The exercise of "reasonable control" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Keeping illegal controlled substances out of the home and out of the possession of the child
- Keeping firearms out of the child's possession (other than for the purpose of hunting, as permitted by law under appropriate supervision)
- Requiring the child not to be out after curfew (10:30 p.m. in the City of Royal Oak)
- Requiring the child to attend school
- Providing proper supervision in the home when the parent or guardian is not present
- Forbidding the minor from willfully or maliciously destroying another person's property
- Forbidding the minor from knowingly possessing stolen property
- Forbidding the minor from possessing alcoholic beverages

A parent or guardian who violates this section of the City Code is responsible for a civil infraction. The penalty is a fine of not less than \$100 for the first time offense, not less than \$250 for a second offense, and not less than \$500 for a third or subsequent offense.

There are enforceable consequences for every illegal act. "Kids will be kids," "This is the first time it ever happened," or "I didn't know it was against the law," will not be considered a defense by legal authorities.

## Further Information

Raising a child in today's world is difficult. Children may experience various emotional and behavioral problems as they grow.

It is important to intervene early when problems are most easily solved. Some resources to consider are school counselors and social workers, clergy, community counseling services, the school Student Assistance program, and self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Alanon and Families Anonymous.

Other community resources are:

**Royal Oak Youth Assistance** .....248-546-8282

### Oakland County Probate Court

Juvenile Info .....248-858-0112

Status Offenses .....248-858-0227

### Common Ground Sanctuary

Crisis Hotline .....248-456-0909

#### Runaway Shelter & Transitional Living

10-17 year olds .....248-547-2260

16-20 year olds .....248-399-9795

### HAVEN

#### Domestic & Sexual Abuse

Shelter & Services .....248-334-1284

24-hour Crisis Hotline .....248-334-1274

Business Office .....248-334-1284

### Royal Oak Police Department

Non-Emergency .....248-246-3500

Community Policing ..... 248-246-3424

### Royal Oak Community Coalition

707 Girard Ave

Royal Oak MI 48073

(248) 588-5050, Ext. 229

[ropc@royaloakschools.com](mailto:ropc@royaloakschools.com)



#### OUR MISSION

To promote, through collaboration, a healthy community free of substance abuse for youth and those who live in, work in or visit Royal Oak.

# Your Child & The Law

## Dear Parents and Youth,

It is important that both parents and youth be aware of the consequences connected with violations of the law. This brochure provides you with information regarding law violations that often bring young people into contact with the police and the court system.

There are consequences for violations of the law. Your child's age determines whether the juvenile court or local and county criminal courts have jurisdiction.

We urge you to take a few moments to become familiar with the information included here.

The Royal Oak Community Coalition and the Royal Oak Police Department are striving to create a safe, substance/abuse-free environment within which our youth may achieve their maximum potential. Do not hesitate to contact us if we can assist you or your family in any way.

### Royal Oak Police Department

221 E. Third Street  
Royal Oak MI 48067  
(248) 246-3424

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