Play By The Rules

A Guide to more than 200 laws that students should know!
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About Project REAL

Project REAL reduces crime, protects students' futures, and makes Nevada safer for everyone. We do this by engaging the students we reach in conversations about laws, the consequences of breaking laws, constitutional rights, and how to exercise those rights. Justice is rooted in knowledge, and our work brings more fairness and justice into the lives of the students we reach. For that reason, all of our resources are available at no cost to the schools, organizations, and families of Nevada who wish to use them.

Project REAL’s unique activities and educational resources engage Nevada's students in critical thinking about citizenship, selfless action, democracy and the law, helping them to achieve REAL excellence. Our Sequential Education Program helps to ensure that Nevada is populated by residents who respect the law and contribute to their community - people who work to create an environment they are proud to live in and call their own. By fostering actions of mutual respect and selflessness, and by encouraging commitments to local communities, we contribute to a safer and more prosperous Nevada for us all.

About This Book

This edition of Play By the Rules been designed to help you understand laws and scenarios which tend to be the greatest sources of confusion about law among youth.

This publication has been created by Project REAL, a nonprofit organization that serves the students of Nevada. Where most companies exist to make money, nonprofits work to spend money in ways that make the world a better place. The money to do this kind of work comes from donations made by companies, government agencies, and people just like you.

Since we are a nonprofit, we provide these materials at no cost to you, your family, and your school. We are happy to do so, but that also means we can only print and distribute a limited amount of books each year based on the donations we receive. We hope the printed versions of our books will last 3-5 years at each school so that we can use our resources to provide additional copies of them to more schools, rather than replacing the ones we’ve already sent out. Therefore, we ask that if you are reading this as a physical publication provided to you by your school, that you treat it carefully and with respect while it is in your possession.

If you don't already have one and would like a digital copy of this publication for yourself, please visit our website to download our mobile app, where you will be able to find what you are looking for. You will find that at http://projectrealnv.org

Would you like to know more?

The book you are about to read covers a wide range of subjects that will affect your life as an independent adult. Taxes, credit development, employment, health, personal safety, volunteering and even pet ownership are discussed. By downloading our free app, you can quickly connect with organizations in Nevada that will help you find resources related to all of those topics and many more.

Get the Project REAL app by visiting iTunes, Google Play, or our website: http://projectrealnv.org
About Our Founders

Project REAL wouldn’t exist at all were it not for our founders Sam Lionel & Irwin Molasky. Nearly 200,000 students have them to thank for their Project REAL experiences, and we anticipate hundreds of thousands more owing them a debt of gratitude for many years to come.

Since 2004, Project REAL has been teaching the students of Nevada about the law and their rights thanks to Mr. Lionel and Mr. Molasky. They founded Project REAL to ensure that the young residents of Nevada would have consistent access to informative and empowering law related education. Thanks to their vision, ongoing support, and community ties, Nevada’s students are and shall remain safer, wiser, and more informed members of the communities they live in.

About The Law

Project REAL’s staff and volunteers worked extensively to deliver the book you hold in your hands. We have ensured that the information provided herein is accurate, true, and up-to-date at the time of publication. While the book will introduce you to key concepts, rights, responsibilities, and laws which you are likely to encounter as a student, it is neither an encyclopedia nor replacement for sound legal advice. This is a starting point meant to empower you, however the laws which are referred to in this book may be different based on where you live and when you are reading the material.

Whether you make Nevada your home or move to out of state, be sure to research your rights and the local laws in the community you end up calling home. Remaining up to date and knowledgeable of your rights will only help you in the long run, and potentially protect you from being scammed or taken advantage of. This guide was written with Nevada Law in mind. Whether you’re from another state or moving away laws can be different depending where you live, especially when it comes to issues like immigration, technology, civil law, and gun rights. Should you find yourself living outside of Nevada, be sure to familiarize yourself with local laws and statutes as they may be different from the ones detailed in this manual.

This Is Not Legal Advice

This publication is intended to be informational only. The information in this book is not intended as legal advice. No legal advice is being given. If you are facing legal issues, whether criminal or civil, seek professional legal counsel to get your question answered.

This book is not a replacement for legal advice. To be 100% clear: if you ever find yourself in a situation where your life is intersecting with the law, we highly encourage you to seek the advice and services of a licensed and practicing attorney.

You should also keep in mind that laws are ever-changing. Consider how you are taught from an early age that The United States Constitution is a living document. Laws work similarly and each year many new laws are created while some existing laws are repealed. Given the ever-changing landscape of laws in the United States, we highly suggest that you contact an attorney if you ever find yourself with questions related to the law.

On a final note, our mobile app also has a digital version of this guide. We will update the digital version of this text regularly as the laws continue to change. We hope you will download our app so you always have an up-to-date resource as you navigate your way through life as an adult.
Comments

James W. Hardesty  
Justice, Nevada Supreme Court

As a nation of laws, we can be proud that we have both an orderly society and the guarantees of freedom and liberty. Our laws guide our actions, just as the rules we have in our workplaces, our homes and our schools. These laws and rules reflect not only our values, but our aspirations as a society. Laws have served us well for centuries and provide needed protection and equality for all. And our courts provide justice when called upon to enforce and interpret our laws. The Judicial Branch of government acts as a check and balance over the other branches when necessary to ensure that our laws and the Constitutions of Nevada and the United States are followed.

We are taught the rules of our families and our schools from our youngest years, but learning about the laws of Nevada and the United States is much more difficult. *Play by the Rules* will be a valuable tool to further that educational process.

Ross Miller  
Nevada Secretary of State

The success of American democracy begins with education in the classroom. *Play by the Rules* provides fundamental civic education regarding the laws of our great state and the democratic process, helping build a foundation of civic engagement. I encourage teachers to utilize this program in facilitating their students’ development of a greater understanding and appreciation of their citizenship.

Valerie Wiener  
Nevada Senate, District 3

Each of us has the opportunity and responsibility to make positive contributions to our communities and our state. It all starts with good citizenship, and learning about our laws is an important place to begin. As a state senator, one of my primary responsibilities involves the legislative process, which includes: introducing bills, passing new laws, amending existing laws, repealing outdated laws and not passing measures that are not ready or appropriate to become laws. This is why I am particularly pleased that Nevada students now have access to, and use of, *Play by the Rules*. This extraordinary resource serves as an exceptional guide to teach Nevada youths about the role of government in their lives and specific laws that affect them and their families.
Douglas C. Gillespie  
Sheriff  
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

I have long believed that quality early-childhood education is critical to a young person’s success in life. That is why I am so supportive of this project. Teaching middle school children about the law is a great idea. If children have a basic understanding of legal concepts, they are much more likely to become law-abiding adults. It’s nice to see a text book like *Play by the Rules* that can help create a safe and prosperous community for our citizens.

Bobby Blue  
Nevada State Bird  
(a.k.a. Mountain Bluebird)

I am proud to be the “spokesbird” for *Play by the Rules*. You will find me throughout this book in my blue cap and sneakers trying to find answers to my many questions about Nevada law. Laws are very important to me. In fact, it was a law that designated me as the state bird of Nevada. Another law that I like is the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that protects me and other songbirds. Laws can protect you, too, but only if you know them and you’re willing to make them a part of your life. Read this book, study it and then keep it in a safe place. I hope that this book will help you hit one over the fence.

Keith Rheault  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Nevada Department of Education

As Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of Nevada, I am pleased to support the *Play by the Rules* program. The introduction of this program provides a unique opportunity for Nevada’s students to learn about the laws of the state and how those laws influence their lives. This curriculum will guide our students to a better understanding of Nevada law and how those laws apply to them. Being effective citizens requires knowledge of the laws established to protect our rights and identify our responsibilities. I urge school administrators, teachers and parents to take advantage of this opportunity to teach our youth about our laws.
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Introduction

It’s frustrating to get caught doing something you didn’t know was wrong. It’s also frustrating to get caught doing something you knew was wrong, but didn't know how serious it was.

In these 12 chapters you will find important questions about the law that everyone ought to have. The answers are informal summaries of the law, not the law as it is actually written. If you want to read further about the law, you may go to a law library in your community and look up the law in the codes that are listed in the box below. There you will see the law as it is actually written.

The answers to some of the questions in this book do not make references to codes. This may be because the answers are part of common law or traditional ways of doing things, or they may be merely good advice that you would be well advised to follow. Lawyers, judges, police officers and other legal professionals may be able to help you with your legal questions.

Also, understand that some laws can vary from place to place. Nevada’s laws are not exactly the same as the laws in other states and territories. Laws in foreign lands differ in many ways from the laws within the United States. It’s important for you to know that if you live in one place but you are in another, you are responsible for following the laws of the place where you are at that moment. That’s a little like moving from one teacher’s class to another. You follow the rules of the class you are in at that time.

If it is important to know the drivers’ manual before getting a license to drive, it is even more important for you to know this manual and to play by the rules.

Editor’s Notes

Play by the Rules contains what we hope are easy-to-read “translations,” not the laws as they are officially written. Each year Nevada laws are revised and new laws are created. For this reason, Play by the Rules is periodically updated to reflect significant changes. Check for updates at www.pbronline.org.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2007-DG-BX-K003 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the authors and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS IN THE CODES

NRS XXX.XXX = Nevada Revised Statutes
NAC XXX.XXX = Nevada Administrative Code
Rule of Law

Have you ever tried to play a game or a sport without knowing all of the rules? It is difficult to be a good player without knowing the rules and regulations.

In our society, we have a set of rules called laws. Laws are created and enforced by the government. Laws generally reflect and promote what a society thinks is right or wrong. A government cannot operate effectively unless its citizens respect its laws. Our society is based on the “Rule of Law” principle. This means that everyone, including government officials, must respect and obey the legal system and its laws. In turn, we expect our legal system to protect our basic human rights and to promote order and stability.

We are all citizens, and the law provides us with a set of rules and regulations to follow. In order to be good citizens, it is important that we know the law so that we can “Play by the Rules.”

WHERE DOES THE LAW COME FROM?

Our laws come from many different sources. The United States Constitution and the Nevada Constitution set forth laws and establish our structure of government. Our legislative branches of government also create laws. Finally, the courts interpret laws and settle disputes.

WHAT ARE CONSTITUTIONS?

The Constitution of the United States, written in 1787, is the “supreme law of the land.” It establishes the separation of powers for the three branches of federal government that create laws (legislative), enforce laws (executive) and interpret laws (judicial).

The Constitution and its amendments also place limits on the powers of our government. These limits protect the fundamental rights we enjoy, such as the freedom of religion, the freedom of speech and the right to bear arms.

When Nevada became a state in 1864, the leaders of the state also created a Constitution for Nevada. Our Nevada Constitution provides the basis for all other laws in our state. This Constitution may only be changed by a vote of the people of Nevada. Like the U.S. Constitution, the Nevada Constitution creates three branches of government: the legislative branch, the executive branch and the judicial branch.
WHAT DO THE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT DO?

The legislative branch, made up of the Senate and House of Representatives, writes laws and sends them to the chief of the executive branch for approval.

The President is the chief of the executive branch of the federal government whose main responsibility is to make sure that the laws passed by the legislature are enforced. The chief of the executive branch of state government is the governor.

The judicial branch has different levels of courts. This branch interprets questions about the laws, makes sure those laws do not violate our federal or state Constitutions, and applies laws.

WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES CODE?

The United States Code is a collection of all the laws passed by our U.S. Congress and approved by our President. The U.S. Code creates taxes, governs how businesses operate, defines crimes and tells us how to behave in society.

WHAT IS THE NEVADA REVISED STATUTES?

The Nevada Revised Statutes is a collection of all the laws passed by our state legislature and approved by our governor. Like the U.S. Code, the Nevada Revised Statutes governs how businesses operate, defines crimes and sets punishments, and tells us how to behave in society.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL LAW?

Nevada law applies to everyone in Nevada and to any conduct that occurs in or affects Nevada. Federal law applies to persons in every state and territory.

ARE THERE OTHER TYPES OF LAWS?

Yes. Every city and county has its own special laws that apply just to that area of the state. For example, city or county ordinances might create a special sales tax or set a curfew. You only have to follow these laws when you are in the community where that “local law” is in effect.
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CIVIL LAW AND CRIMINAL LAW?

Civil law is a term used to describe the law that relates to the way you interact with other individuals. For example, these laws tell you how to write contracts with other people, how to operate your business and whether you owe money because you wrecked someone else’s car.

Criminal law describes the law that relates to the way you interact with society as a whole. This law provides strict definitions about what behavior is considered illegal, such as robbing a bank or stealing a car. While these offenses affect certain individuals, we have decided as a society that whenever someone commits a crime, the crime hurts everyone, not just the individuals involved.

ARE THERE SPECIAL LAWS FOR YOUTH?

Yes. The rest of this book will present you with the different types of laws that may affect you as a young person in Nevada. We will discuss both criminal and civil laws and what they mean to you.

DO I HAVE A ROLE IN LAWMAKING?

Yes. Elected officials at the local, state and national levels create laws. As a citizen, you have a right to attend meetings and public hearings, express your opinions and even draft laws that you think should be considered.

There is a law called the “Open Meeting Law” that requires all public officials to conduct their meetings openly. NRS 241.020. As a citizen you have a right to attend those public meetings to voice your opinions and to learn more about your government.

In our democracy you have a representative at each level of government. If you do not like a particular law, you should call or write your representative or senator in the legislature and ask that the law be amended or repealed the next time they are in session. Every year hundreds of laws are changed, created or repealed at all levels of government.

Court Systems

WHAT ARE THE COURT SYSTEMS?

The court systems are the judicial branches of government at federal, state and local levels. Courts hear civil, criminal, juvenile, domestic and traffic cases.

If you are accused of a crime, you have a right to go to court where the prosecutor must prove you have committed that crime.

If you have a dispute with someone about what the law means, the court will determine what the law means and settle the dispute. For example, if you are in an automobile wreck, the court will decide who was at fault based on the evidence presented by both sides.
CAN THE COURTS MAKE LAWS?

The court’s role is to interpret and apply laws created by the legislative branch of government. When there is no authoritative statement of the law, our system of law, which originated in England, gives courts the power to make “common law” through court decisions. These decisions become precedents used to decide future cases.

WHAT DO FEDERAL COURTS DO?

Federal courts hear cases involving civil and criminal wrongs involving federal law. Federal trial courts are called U.S. District Courts.

Cases can be appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in your area. Appeals are usually decided at this level, but some cases can go as far as the court of final appeals — the U.S. Supreme Court.

Nevada has one district court, the District Court of Nevada, which is located in Las Vegas and Reno. Nevada is part of the Ninth Circuit, which also includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and the Northern Marianas Islands.

WHAT DO STATE COURTS DO?

Similar to the federal court system, Nevada courts hear both civil and criminal cases. Nevada’s trial courts are called District Courts which are divided into nine judicial districts.

In Nevada we have one appellate court called the Supreme Court of Nevada, comprised of a chief justice and six associate justices. Appellate courts do not try cases, have juries or witnesses. They hear oral arguments and review questions of law or allegations of procedural error arising in the trial court.

ARE THERE COURTS FOR YOUTH?

Yes. If you are under 18 years old (at the time the offense occurred) and have to go to court because you may have broken a criminal law, a juvenile court hears your case. In this court, there is no jury — only a judge who has a special knowledge of the laws as they apply to juveniles. Juvenile court is part of the District Courts of Nevada. (See Chapter 2.)
WHO ARE JUDGES AND WHAT IS THEIR JOB?

Judges oversee courtroom proceedings. They listen to testimony presented in cases brought before the court and rule according to the law. Like sports officials, their job is to ensure that the law is accurately and fairly applied. The President, with Congress’ approval, appoints federal judges for life, while Nevada state judges are elected by the people and serve six-year terms.

The clerks of court, bailiffs, marshals and court reporters assist judges. They are responsible for handling evidence, swearing in witnesses, ushering the jury and recording the facts of the trial.

WHAT IS A JURY?

A jury is a group of randomly chosen citizens (six to 12 in the District Courts of Nevada and six to 12 in federal court depending on whether it is a civil or criminal case). The jury’s task is to determine the facts and apply the law in an adult court proceeding.

The right to trial by jury is guaranteed by the Sixth and Seventh Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. This right applies in both federal and Nevada courts. To serve on a jury in a Nevada court, you must be 18 years old, a U.S. citizen and a resident of Nevada. NRS 6.010. As citizens we have a duty to serve as fair and impartial jurors.

Please note, there are no juries involved in juvenile court proceedings except for Teen Court. (See Chapter 2.)

WHO ARE DEFENDANTS AND PLAINTIFFS?

A defendant is someone who has either been accused of committing a crime (in a criminal court), or someone who is being sued by another party (in a civil court).

A plaintiff is the injured party who brings an action (a complaint or lawsuit) against the defendant in a civil case. In a criminal case, the “plaintiff” is the government (either the United States or Nevada), and is represented by a prosecutor.

WHAT IS A WITNESS?

A witness is a person who testifies to what he or she has seen, heard or otherwise observed. In court, the witness is sworn to tell the truth and failure to do so may result in a charge of perjury. Refusal to appear in court may result in an arrest.

You have the civic responsibility to help keep your school and community safe. As a citizen, you have a duty to report crimes and testify if called upon. Even as a minor, you could be called as a witness in a court proceeding.

WHAT IS AN ATTORNEY?

An attorney is an individual who has studied law, has passed a test to be admitted to practice law and is licensed to practice law in accordance with local regulations. Another term for attorney is lawyer.
WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ATTORNEYS?

There are two different types of attorneys in the criminal courtroom – prosecuting and defense attorneys.

A **prosecuting attorney** (also called the District Attorney in state court and the U.S. Attorney in federal court) is an attorney who represents the government in criminal cases. Prosecutors present evidence and witnesses to prove that the defendant is guilty. In Nevada, the district attorney is an elected official and appoints assistant district attorneys to assist in prosecuting cases in their districts. The President appoints the U.S. Attorneys who then appoint Assistant U.S. Attorneys to assist in prosecuting cases in their districts.

A **defense attorney** is responsible for defending the accused in criminal court. Defense attorneys present evidence and witnesses to prove that the defendant did not commit the crime or that the prosecution did not prove guilt beyond a **reasonable doubt**.

In civil court the attorneys for the two sides are called the **plaintiff’s attorney** and the **defendant’s attorney**. The plaintiff’s attorney represents the party making a complaint. The defendant’s attorney represents the party being sued based on that complaint.

WHAT IS AN ATTORNEY GENERAL?

An **Attorney General** is the chief legal officer of the executive branch of a state, territory or the federal government. The Attorney General’s office is sometimes referred to as the “attorney for the people.” The Attorney General is responsible for advising the government on legal matters and representing it in both civil and criminal cases.

WHEN WOULD I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

If you are charged with a crime, you need an attorney who is familiar with criminal law to defend you.
You may also need an attorney if you are buying or selling a house, divorcing, adopting a child, making a large purchase, making a will or organizing a business. There are attorneys who specialize in these areas of the law. It is therefore important to carefully select an attorney based on your legal needs.

WHAT IF I CANNOT AFFORD AN ATTORNEY?

If you have been charged with committing a crime, explain to the presiding judge that you cannot afford an attorney. If the judge agrees that you or your parents/guardians cannot afford an attorney, then the court will appoint one to assist you. NRS 171.188.

In civil court, if you cannot afford an attorney, you may qualify for free legal services from a legal aid office. There are some trial lawyers who will not charge you unless they win or obtain a settlement. This is called a contingency fee arrangement. It is important to ask your attorney if his or her fees are based on an hourly rate or contingency fee arrangement. There are also some cases in which the court may require the defendant to pay your attorney’s fee if you win your case. One final way in which you may be able to recover attorney’s fees is if you have a contract with the defendant in which he or she has agreed to pay those expenses.

Legal Rights

WHAT IS “DUE PROCESS OF LAW”?

Due process of law is the guarantee that citizens are to be treated fairly by the government. It also guarantees that a person has the right to be heard in court before being deprived of life, liberty or property by the government.

WHERE DO I FIND “DUE PROCESS OF LAW” IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION?

You can find due process of law mentioned in several places in the U.S. Constitution. The Due Process Clause can be found in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. A list of the basic rights of the accused can be found in the Fifth and Sixth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution.

WHAT ARE THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED?

Accused people have the following rights:

• To a trial by jury;
• To a speedy and public trial;
• To be informed of their rights and of the charges against them;
• To confront and cross examine witnesses;
• To refuse to testify against themselves; and
• To be represented by an attorney.
DO JUVENILES HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS IN COURT AS ADULTS?

No. While juveniles today do not have all of the same due process rights as adults, the famous U.S. Supreme Court case of *In re Gault*, 387 U.S. 1 (1967), established four main rights for a juvenile accused of committing a crime:

- The right to notification of the charges against him or her;
- The right to an attorney;
- The right to confront and cross examine witnesses; and
- The right to refuse to testify against oneself.

You will learn more about the juvenile justice system in the next chapter.
WHAT IS A JUVENILE?

A juvenile is a person not yet considered an adult for the purposes of determining either criminal or civil liability. Generally, you are considered a juvenile if you are under age 18.

WHAT IS THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM?

The juvenile justice system is a unique part of the criminal justice system that focuses on the problems, special concerns and delinquent activities of juveniles. The system includes many different government agencies, from juvenile parole and probation to the juvenile court to the Nevada Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) to the various county divisions of juvenile justice services. The juvenile justice system has its own set of laws and procedures that govern the treatment of juveniles.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE JUVENILE SYSTEM AND ADULT SYSTEM?

There are many differences in the two systems including the terms used and the procedures followed. Below is a list of juvenile court terms and matching adult court terms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juvenile Court Terms</th>
<th>Adult Court Terms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offense</td>
<td>Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take into custody</td>
<td>Arrest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petition</td>
<td>File charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denial or “not true”</td>
<td>Not guilty plea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admission or “true”</td>
<td>Guilty plea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fact finding</td>
<td>Trial</td>
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<td>Found delinquent</td>
<td>Found guilty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disposition</td>
<td>Sentencing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detention</td>
<td>Jail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aftercare</td>
<td>Parole</td>
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WHEN DOES SOMEONE ENTER THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM?

A person under the age of 18 enters the juvenile justice system in two ways: when a petition is filed against the person, or when he or she is taken into custody by a law enforcement official. An officer takes a juvenile into custody if the officer believes the juvenile has done any of the following:

- Is a **habitual truant**;
- Is beyond the control of parents/guardians;
- Has run away from home and is in need of care;
- or
- Has committed an offense. NRS 62B.320 and 62B330.

WHAT IS A STATUS OFFENDER?

A **status offender** is a juvenile who has committed an offense that would not be criminal if committed by an adult. NRS 62B.320. This includes someone who has run away from home, is a truant or is uncontrollable by his/her parents.

WHAT IS A DELINQUENT ACT?

A **delinquent act** is an act committed by a juvenile that violates a county or municipal ordinance, is a criminal offense under state law, or violates any rule or regulation having the force of law. NRS 62B.330.

Procedures

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE POLICE STOP ME?

At all times remain respectful, cooperative and truthful with law enforcement. Obey all reasonable requests asked of you, unless the request poses a risk to your personal safety or well being. Do not give false information to an officer.

Do not “bad mouth” or walk away from law enforcement officers, even in instances where you feel they are wrong. Remember that the first words spoken by you may determine the tone of the encounter and the eventual outcome.

If an officer has reasonable suspicion to believe you may be carrying a weapon, you may be subject to a “pat-down” search. This is primarily performed to protect the officer and others in the vicinity.

IF I AM TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR A CRIME, WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Make sure you are informed as to why you are being held and what your rights are. Before questioning you about a particular crime, a law enforcement officer must read you your Constitutional rights, called **Miranda warnings**. Miranda warnings are named after a famous case, *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966), in which the U.S. Supreme Court said that a person accused of a crime is entitled to basic rights.

WHAT ARE MIRANDA WARNINGS?

Miranda warnings are given by police to criminal suspects in police custody, or in a custodial situation, before they are asked questions relating to a crime.
A custodial situation is where the suspect’s freedom of movement is restrained although he or she is not under arrest. Miranda warnings include the following:
- You have the right to remain silent.
- Anything you say can and will be used against you.
- You have the right to talk to a lawyer and have the lawyer present with you while you are being questioned.
- If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, one will be appointed to represent you before any questioning, if you wish.
- If you wish to communicate with your lawyer, reasonable means will be provided to allow you to do so.
- You can decide at any time to exercise these rights and not answer any questions or make any statements.

After the warnings are stated, the officer must ask, “Do you understand each of these rights I have explained to you?”

**WHAT HAPPENS IF A POLICE OFFICER TAKES ME INTO CUSTODY?**

The officer has several options regarding what to do with you. The officer may:
- Take you directly to the juvenile probation intake officer for booking into the juvenile detention center;
- Release you to your parents or someone who can provide supervision, and give you a warning;
- Release you to your parents/guardian with their promise to bring you to juvenile court at a later date; or
- Release you and refer you and your parents to different services in the community that provide counseling, employment, temporary “shelter care” or other help.

**IS RESISTING ARREST ILLEGAL?**

Resisting arrest is illegal and may result in additional charges. NRS 199.280. Never resist arrest or help another person resist arrest, no matter how unreasonable the arrest may seem. A person’s guilt or innocence will be decided in court, not by the arresting police officer.

**WHAT IS A DETENTION FACILITY?**

A detention facility is a place for temporarily keeping juveniles who have been accused of committing delinquent acts.

Juveniles who are in a detention facility are either awaiting action by the probation officer, awaiting action by the prosecuting attorney or awaiting a hearing before the court.

**IF I AM TAKEN TO A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, HOW LONG WILL I STAY THERE?**

The length of time spent in the correctional facility varies depending on the case.

You may not be held in detention longer than two days, excluding Sundays and holidays, unless an order for detention is signed by a judge. At the detention hearing, the judge will listen to what you, your parents or guardians, or your lawyers have to say. The judge will decide either to let you go home and return to court at a later date or to remain in detention to await your formal hearing.

**WHAT IS JUVENILE COURT?**

**Juvenile Court**

**WHAT IS JUVENILE COURT?**

Juvenile court is a special division of the district courts of Nevada. A district court judge acts as the juvenile court judge. Juvenile court is for young people under the age of 18 who have been referred for violating the law or who are in need of supervision.

You can be required to go to juvenile court...
if a petition is filed charging you to be a child:
- Who is beyond the control of parents or custodians;
- Who is believed to have violated any state or local law;
- Who has run away from home; or
- Who is a habitual truant. NRS 62B.320.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO TO JUVENILE COURT?

If you go to juvenile court, you, your parents or guardians, and your lawyer 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 decides whether the charges against you were proven. If the judge finds the evidence was insufficient and the prosecuting attorney was unsuccessful in proving the case against you, your case will be dismissed and you will be free to go.

If the judge decides that you have committed the offense (adjudicated delinquent), the judge may request that the juvenile probation department prepare a report on you and your family, a description of the offense and a recommendation to the juvenile court regarding appropriate placement, services and treatment.

IF THE JUVENILE JUDGE FINDS ME DELINQUENT, WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

The juvenile court judge may decide to put you on probation or place you in the custody of the Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS). Juvenile court judges have the authority to impose a variety of consequences at their discretion.

Proband

WHAT DOES “ON PROBATION” MEAN?

Being on probation means being released to your parent or guardian with certain conditions set by a juvenile court judge. During your probationary period, you must follow what the juvenile court judge has ordered and complete any special conditions of probation. Special conditions of probation may include attending school daily, performing community service, paying back a victim for damages, obtaining counseling or therapy, submitting to random drug or alcohol testing, and keeping a curfew. The court may also place you in a group home, residential treatment facility or a detention facility. Your parents may be held financially responsible for any costs related to your placement.

WHAT IS A JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER?

A juvenile probation officer (JPO) is an officer who supervises and monitors you during your probation to ensure completion of your probation conditions.

JPOs provide family background reports that help the judge make decisions about your case, provide reports to the juvenile court judge regarding your progress and violations of your probation conditions.

WHEN DOES PROBATION END?

In some cases, you can be on probation for a set length of time, such as six or 12 months, or until you have met the conditions required by the court. If you do not complete or you violate your conditions of probation, the judge can extend your probationary period. Probation supervision will continue until the judge closes your case. You may be kept on probation until your 21st birthday unless you have been transferred to adult court for committing a serious crime as a juvenile.
Division of Child & Family Services

WHAT IS THE DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES?

The Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) is charged with the supervision of delinquent juveniles. DCFS provides care, custody, treatment and rehabilitation services to youth adjudicated delinquent by the courts of Nevada.

There are three main detention facilities in Nevada: Summit View Correctional Center (a maximum security facility), Caliente Youth Center and the Nevada Youth Training Center.

You may be held in a DCFS facility until your 20th birthday if the judge determines that it is necessary for further observation and care. NRS 63.790.

WHAT IS A MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY?

A maximum security facility is reserved for the most serious offenders. If you are sent to one of these facilities, it is like going to a state prison. The DCFS staff controls everything you do every day you are there. They tell you when to wake up, when to eat, when to go to school, how long to go to school and when to go to bed. You are watched at all times. Nevada’s maximum security facility is Summit View Correctional Center and is located in North Las Vegas.

Transfers & Alternatives in Juvenile Court

AS A JUVENILE CAN I BE SENT TO ADULT COURT?

If you are 14 or over and commit an offense that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, the District Attorney may petition to have you transferred to adult court. NRS 62B.390.

If the juvenile court certifies the case to be conducted in adult criminal court, you will be tried in a public trial and, upon conviction, may be sentenced to serve time in prison as an adult according to the chart in Chapter 3.

If you are 16 or over and are charged with committing certain violent crimes such as sexual assault or use of a weapon in committing crimes you will be charged as an adult. NRS 62B.390.

If you are convicted in adult court, you will no longer be considered a juvenile even if you are younger than 18 years of age. Any future criminal acts will be dealt with in the adult system.

WHAT IS TEEN COURT?

Teen Court is a pre-trial diversion program of the juvenile court in a few communities that allows juveniles charged with a delinquent act the option of facing their peers for sentencing, instead of going to juvenile court. First-time juvenile offenders are eligible. If the defendant successfully completes his or her sentence, the charges are dismissed and a juvenile record is avoided. If the defendant does not complete a sentence successfully, the case is usually sent directly to the juvenile court.
Juvenile Record

CAN MY JUVENILE COURT RECORD BE SEALED OR DESTROYED?

Yes, juvenile records, with limited exceptions, are sealed when you reach age 21. NRS 62H.140. Records can be sealed earlier if you petition the juvenile court for an order sealing all records. NRS 62H.130.

You should be aware, however, that other agencies, such as the FBI and schools, do not seal their records. Your future may be affected by a bad driving record or school record, and it can be used against you in gaining a good job or entering military service.

IF I HAVE A JUVENILE RECORD, WHAT SHOULD I SAY ON A JOB APPLICATION WHEN ASKED IF I HAVE EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME?

You should say “no.” Being convicted of a crime is an adult court term that is not the same as being adjudicated delinquent as a juvenile. The reason for this distinction lies in the belief that young people can be rehabilitated.
WHAT IS A CRIME?

A crime is committed when you break the law either by doing something the law says you are not to do or by not doing something the law says you have to do.

Crimes & Classifications

ARE ALL CRIMES THE SAME?

No. There are three classifications of crimes:

Felonies are the most serious crimes and can result in being committed to a federal or state prison for more than one year. Felonies can result in immediate detention, a fine or both. NRS 193.130.

Gross misdemeanors are less serious crimes. They cannot result in commitment to state prison, but rather county jail for no more than one year, or a fine of up to $2,000. NRS 193.140.

Misdemeanors are the least serious offenses and cannot result in commitment to county or city jail for more than six months or a fine of no more than $1,000. NRS 193.150.

These classifications demonstrate the seriousness of different crimes. Another classification of seriousness of crime is called degree. An example of this would be theft. Theft constitutes a felony of the second degree if the amount involved exceeds $1,500. Theft constitutes a felony of the third degree if the amount involved is between $500 and $1,500.

WHAT ARE THE PUNISHMENTS FOR COMMITTING A CRIME?

The chart below explains the fines and sentences for adult, first-time offenders. NRS 193.120-193.150.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>Fine</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Felony Category A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Life without release/death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Category B</td>
<td>$10,000 or less</td>
<td>1-20 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Category C</td>
<td>$10,000 or less</td>
<td>1-5 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Category D</td>
<td>$5,000 or less</td>
<td>1-4 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Felony Category E</td>
<td>$5,000 or less</td>
<td>1-4 yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross misdemeanor</td>
<td>$2,000 or less</td>
<td>No more than one year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor</td>
<td>$1,000 or less</td>
<td>No more than six months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The penalties can be greater if you have previously been convicted of a crime.
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WITNESS A CRIME?

If you see a crime, it is very important that you not place yourself in danger. Make as many observations about the crime as you can (such as people, clothing, vehicles, license plate, kind and color of car, direction of travel, time, location and other witnesses). Call 911 immediately about the crime and tell them if anyone is injured. You should talk to an adult you trust, such as your parent, guardian, teacher, administrator, counselor or police officer.

WHAT IF I DO NOT KNOW THAT SOMETHING I DID IS A CRIME?

You are still guilty of the crime, because not knowing a law is no excuse for breaking the law. Otherwise, any person committing a crime might say he or she did not know about a law. No one would be safe if that were allowed.

Just ask yourself if what you are doing might harm or injure a person or property not your own. If it might, it is probably a crime.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HELP ANOTHER PERSON BREAK A LAW?

When you help another person commit a crime, it is known as aiding and abetting. If you are guilty of aiding and abetting, you may be charged with the same crime. NRS 195.020.

WHAT IF I LIE OR MAKE A REPORT THAT IS NOT TRUE?

It is a crime to make a false police report or give false information to an officer, or to call in a false fire alarm or bomb threat to police or emergency officials. NRS 207.280, 475.100 and 202.840.

If questioned as a witness in court, you must tell the truth; to lie would be committing the crime of perjury or false statement under oath. NRS 199.120.

WHAT ARE THE TWO BASIC CATEGORIES OF CRIME?

Crimes against persons are crimes that directly injure, attempt to injure or threaten to injure a person’s body.

Crimes against property are crimes that affect property.

Crimes Against Persons

WHAT IS HOMICIDE?

Homicide is the killing of one human being by another, justified or unjustified. Criminal homicide includes murder.

Murder is intentional, unlawful killing of a human being. NRS 200.010.

Murder of the first degree is murder that is willful, deliberate and premeditated. This includes murder committed during the act of another crime such as child abuse, kidnapping, arson, burglary or terrorism, or on the property of a public or private school. This is a category A felony. NRS 200.030.

Murder of the second degree is all other kinds of murder. NRS 200.030.

WHAT IS BATTERY?

Battery is the intentional and unlawful use of force or violence against another. Depending on the seriousness of the injury and whether or not a deadly weapon was involved, the penalty for battery can range from a misdemeanor to a category B felony. NRS 200.481.
WHAT IS ASSAULT?

Assault is intentionally placing another person in reasonable fear of immediate bodily harm. NRS 200.471. For example, an unprovoked attack against another person is an assault. You do not have to have a weapon to assault someone. If you assault someone, you can be charged with a felony or misdemeanor depending on the circumstances.

WHAT IS HARASSMENT?

Harassment is a threat to another person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or threats to cause physical damage to the property of another person. Harassment is a misdemeanor. NRS 200.571.

WHAT IS BULLYING AND IS IT A CRIME?

Bullying usually involves one or more people engaging in repeated negative actions that cause intentional harm to the victim.

There are many types of bullying including, but not limited to, physical aggression, social aggression, verbal aggression, intimidation, written aggression and sexual harassment. Bullying can result in crimes such as assault, harassment, robbery or theft, and may lead to more serious criminal acts.

WHAT IS A CRIMINAL GANG?

A criminal gang is a group of individuals who have a common name or identifying symbol and customs, and commonly engage in criminal activity punishable as a felony. NRS 213.1263.

CAN I MAKE A PRANK PHONE CALL?

No. A prank phone call is a form of harassment. This can include calling and hanging up, making threats, using lewd language and other annoying messages. Sending or forwarding inappropriate e-mail messages, instant messages or postal mail are also forms of harassment.

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT?

A person who subjects another person to sexual penetration against the victim’s will or under conditions in which the person knows or should have known that the victim is mentally or physically incapable of resisting or understanding the nature of his or her conduct is guilty of sexual assault. This is a category A
felony. Sexual assault involving substantial bodily harm to a child under the age of 16 is punishable by imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole. NRS 200.366.

WHAT IS STATUTORY SEXUAL SEDUCTION?

Statutory sexual seduction is sexual penetration by a person 18 years of age or older with a person under the age of 16 years. If the person committing statutory sexual seduction is under the age of 21, it is a gross misdemeanor; otherwise, it is a category C felony. NRS 200.364 and 200.368.

WHAT IF I THINK I AM A VICTIM OF A SEXUAL CRIME?

You should go to an adult you trust (your parent, guardian, teacher, counselor, principal) and tell him or her what has happened to you.

WHAT IS OPEN OR GROSS LEWDNESS?

Open or gross lewdness is exposing one’s own or another’s private parts or engaging in sexual activity either in public or in any context that would offend other people. This is a gross misdemeanor for a first offense or a category D felony for subsequent offenses. The breast feeding of a child by the mother of the child does not constitute an act of open or gross lewdness. NRS 201.210.

A person who willfully commits any indecent act, other than sexual assault, upon or with a child under the age of 14 years, is guilty of lewdness with a child. This is a category A felony and is punishable by imprisonment in state prison for life with eligibility for parole after a minimum of 10 years served and a fine up to $10,000. A subsequent charge may be punished by imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole. NRS 210.230.

WHAT IS INDECENT EXPOSURE?

Indecent exposure is when a person makes any open and indecent or obscene exposure of his or her person, or that of another person. This is a gross misdemeanor for a first offense or a category D felony for subsequent offenses. The breast feeding of a child by the mother of the child does not constitute an act of open and indecent or obscene exposure of her body. NRS 201.220.

WHAT IS OBSCENITY?

Obscenity is any material or performance that an average person in the community would find, taken as a whole, has an inappropriate concern with sexual matters, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value, and depicts or describes sexual acts. NRS 201.235. A person who knowingly prints, produces or reproduces any obscene item or material for sale or commercial distribution is guilty of a misdemeanor. NRS 201.249.

CAN SOMEONE GIVE ME A DIRTY MAGAZINE?

It is illegal to sell or give someone under 18 years old a magazine with sexually oriented nude pictures unless the person is the parent, guardian or spouse of the minor. NRS 201.265.

Crimes Against Property

WHAT IS ARSON?

Arson is the act of wilfully and maliciously setting fire to or burning any dwelling, house or other structure, personal property, timber, forest or vegetation, including your own. NRS 205.010 to 205.020.
WHAT IS MALICIOUS MISCHIEF?

Malicious mischief is willfully and maliciously destroying or injuring any real or personal property of another. This includes vandalizing, placing graffiti on or otherwise defacing property. The punishment for malicious mischief can range from a misdemeanor to a felony depending on the amount of damage and any prior offenses. NRS 206.005 to 206.345.

WHAT IS THEFT?

Theft is the taking of property or depriving someone of his or her property without the intent to return it. NRS 205.0832.

There are three categories of theft:

Theft of property exceeding $2,500 in value is a category B felony. NRS 205.0835(4).

Theft of property between $250 and $2,500 is a category C felony. NRS 205.0835(3).

Theft of property not exceeding $250 is a misdemeanor. NRS 205.0835(2).

WHAT IS SHOPLIFTING?

Shoplifting is a type of theft that involves the taking of merchandise from a store without paying or intending to pay. NRS 205.0832. It is a serious problem for store owners and customers because money is lost on each item that is not paid for by customers, causing retailers to raise their prices on the items we buy. A person who shoplifts will be convicted of either a felony or misdemeanor depending on the value of the stolen item. NRS 205.0835. Because shoplifting has so greatly hurt profits, as well as increased the cost for goods and items, most store owners now prosecute all shoplifters, even for first offenses and regardless of the shoplifter’s age.

A person does not have to be outside the retail establishment in order to be arrested for shoplifting. If a person attempts to conceal an item within the store, he or she may be arrested.

WHAT CAN A STORE OWNER DO TO ME IF I SHOPLIFT?

A merchant can take you into custody and hold you if he or she thinks you have taken property unlawfully. NRS 597.850.

If you are found delinquent for shoplifting, your parents may be sued in civil court by the business to recover for the financial loss. NRS 597.870.

The owner can order you to never reenter the premises of that store and the court may order you to pay restitution – return the goods to the owner and pay for any property loss, damages and time.
WHAT IS EMPLOYEE THEFT?

Employee theft is another form of theft in which employees steal items, allow their friends to steal items, charge a customer an improperly reduced price (under charging) or abuse an employee discount. NRS 205.0832.

WHAT IS ROBBERY?

Robbery is theft by the use of force. Taking a person’s personal property by using force or by scaring someone into handing over anything that belongs to him or her is the crime of robbery. The amount of force threatened or used in a robbery does not matter when determining the level of guilt. A person who commits robbery is guilty of a category B felony. NRS 200.380. Use of a deadly weapon during the robbery will result in an additional term of imprisonment. NRS 193.165

IS IT ILLEGAL FOR ME TO ACCEPT STOLEN PROPERTY?

Yes. Buying or accepting property known to be or suspected to be stolen is the crime of receiving stolen property. Punishment depends on the value of the property and can be a misdemeanor or a felony. NRS 205.275.

CAN I TAKE SOMEONE’S CAR WITHOUT HIS OR HER PERMISSION?

No. It is illegal for you to take or use a car even temporarily without the owner’s permission. Unauthorized taking of a motor vehicle is a gross misdemeanor. NRS 205.2715. If you deprive the owner of possession of his or her car, you could also be charged with theft.

CAN I USE MY PARENTS’ CREDIT CARD?

You may use their credit card only with their permission. Possession of another person’s credit or debit card with the intent to circulate, use or sell it, or transfer it to a person other than the issuer is a category D felony. In addition to any other penalty, you will be required to pay restitution. NRS 205.690 and 205.750.

WHAT ARE THE LAWS CONCERNING MAIL DELIVERY?

It is illegal to tamper with or destroy a mailbox or mail or to interfere with the delivery of mail. It is a federal crime to steal property belonging to the U.S. Postal Service. The penalty ranges from $500 to $2,000 in fines and one to five years in federal prison. 18 U.S.C. § 1702.

WHAT IS IDENTITY THEFT?

Identity theft is using someone else’s information (such as social security numbers, credit card numbers and drivers’ licenses) without their permission for an unlawful purpose. Identity theft is a category B felony under Nevada law. NRS 205.463. It also is a crime under federal law. 18 USC § 1028.

WHAT IS CRIMINAL TRESPASS?

Entering someone else’s property, vehicle or home without permission or remaining there against the owner’s wishes is known as criminal trespass. Criminal trespass is a misdemeanor. NRS 207.200.

WHAT IS BURGLARY?

Burglary is the unlawful entry into a house, vehicle, tent, boat or building with the intent to commit a crime inside. Burglary is a category B felony. NRS 205.060.
WHAT IF I THROW A ROCK AT A CAR?
Throwing a rock, stone or any other substance at a bicycle or any motor vehicle to cause injury or damage is illegal. This is a misdemeanor or felony depending on the amount of damage. NRS 205.2741 and 193.155.

WHAT IF I THROW MY SODA CAN OUT OF THE CAR WINDOW?
You are littering. **Littering** is the dumping, throwing or leaving of any garbage or trash on any public street, in any public park or recreational area, or on public or private property. Most cities have laws against littering.

WHAT IS BREACH OF PEACE?
**Breach of peace** is maliciously and willfully disturbing the peace by making loud noises, by fighting or by offensive conduct. This is a misdemeanor. NRS 203.010. This may include playing your car or portable stereo too loudly.

IS IT ILLEGAL TO BURN AN AMERICAN FLAG?
It is illegal in Nevada to knowingly deface, damage or physically mistreat an American flag in a public place. This is the crime of **desecration** and is a misdemeanor. NRS 201.290.

Respect for Authority

DO I HAVE TO OBEY POLICE OFFICERS?
Yes. Police officers are charged with enforcing the law and protecting the safety of the public. You should always show respect for law enforcement officers.

It is illegal to interfere with police officers, firemen or members of a search and rescue organization while they are performing their duties at the scene of a fire or emergency. NRS 475.070.

Killing or totally disabling a police dog is a category C felony. Interfering with or taunting a police animal is a category D felony. NRS 574.105.

Refusing to disperse (or break up a group) when asked by a police officer is a misdemeanor. NRS 203.020.

WHAT IF I GIVE THE OFFICER A FAKE NAME?
It is a misdemeanor to make any willfully untrue, misleading or exaggerated statements to a police officer. It also is illegal to willfully delay or obstruct any public officer in the discharge of his or her official powers or duties. This is commonly known as obstruction of justice. NRS 197.190.
WHAT IS THE CRIME OF TERRORISM?

Terrorism is any violent criminal act committed with the intent of causing death or injury to the public, or substantial destruction, contamination or damage to any buildings, transportation and communications systems, water and power lines, or natural resources. Supporting or assisting an act of terrorism also is a crime. The crime of terrorism is a felony. NRS 202.4415.

WHAT ABOUT FALSE BOMB THREATS?

Falsely reporting a bomb threat is a category B felony. NRS 202.840.

WHAT IS HOMELAND SECURITY?

In November of 2002, Congress approved the creation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to coordinate a national effort to protect Americans from terrorist threats and attacks. This agency is responsible for the detection, prevention, preparation for and response to any terrorist activity. Nevada also has a Department of Homeland Security. This department coordinates with the federal government to protect all of us from acts of terrorism.

IS IT ILLEGAL TO FALSELY PULL A FIRE ALARM?

Yes. The purpose of a fire alarm is to protect you and others from harm and it should be used only for this purpose. Pulling a fire alarm as a prank or joke may cause unnecessary panic or harm and can divert firemen when they may truly be needed elsewhere. Sending a false alarm of fire or other emergency is a gross misdemeanor. NRS 475.100.

A false alarm that results in the death of someone is a category D felony. NRS 475.100.

ARE THERE LAWS ABOUT TRAFFIC SIGNS?

Yes. It is illegal to attempt to or alter, deface, injure, knock down or remove any official traffic-control device or any railroad sign. NRS 484.289.
WHAT IS A DEADLY WEAPON?

A **deadly weapon** is any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is capable of causing substantial bodily harm or death. NRS 193.165(6).

WHAT IS A FIREARM?

A **firearm** is any device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion. NRS 202.253.

CAN I OWN A GUN?

If you are under 18 years of age, you may not own, use or carry any firearm of any kind except when permitted by law. A juvenile who violates this law has committed a delinquent act and the court may order detention of the juvenile in the same manner as if the juvenile had committed an act that would have been a felony if committed by an adult.

A person who aids or knowingly permits a juvenile to violate this law is guilty of a misdemeanor. If the person knows there is a substantial risk the juvenile will use the firearm to commit a violent act, the person is guilty of a category C felony. NRS 202.300.

CAN I USE A GUN EVEN THOUGH I DO NOT OWN IT?

If you are under 18 years of age, you may use a firearm if accompanied by his or her parents or guardians.

A person 14 years of age or older may possess a...
rifle or shotgun that is not fully automatic without being accompanied by a parent or guardian if the person has the permission of his or her parents/guardians and is:

- Attending a hunting or safe use of firearms course;
- Practicing the use of a firearm at an established firing range;
- Participating in a lawfully organized competition or performance involving the use of a firearm;
- Lawfully participating in a hunting activity for which a license is not required;
- On property under the control of an adult and the juvenile has the permission of that adult to possess the firearm on the property; or
- At his or her residence.

A person 14 years of age or older may possess, for purposes of the activities listed above, a firearm capable of being concealed without being accompanied by a parent or guardian if he or she has the written permission of a parent/guardian and it is not otherwise prohibited by law.

A person 14 years of age or older who possesses a valid hunting license may use a rifle or shotgun that is not fully automatic without being accompanied by a parent or guardian. NRS 202.300.

CAN I POSSESS AMMUNITION?

No. You may not possess ammunition that is suitable for handguns. It is illegal for anyone to give, sell or transfer handgun ammunition to a juvenile in any way. 18 U.S.C. § 922.

CAN I OWN A SLING SHOT?

Yes, but it is illegal for anyone to possess a switchblade knife, blackjack, billy, sandclub, sandbag or metal knuckles. NRS 202.350.

CAN SOMEONE SELL ME A GUN?

No. If you are under the age of 18, it is illegal for anyone to sell or transfer a gun to you. This is a category B felony. NRS 202.310; 18 U.S.C. § 922.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BRING A GUN TO SCHOOL?

It is illegal to carry or possess a pistol, revolver or other firearm while on the property of a public or private school or child care facility. NRS 202.265.

If you bring a firearm, pellet gun, slingshot or a dangerous weapon to school or any school activity,
the school is required to expel you for at least one year or enroll you in an alternative school. A second offense will result in permanent expulsion from the school. NRS 392.466.

Law enforcement will be notified of any violation of school policy against weapons. If any violations of criminal law have been committed, you will be immediately referred to juvenile court.

**WHAT IF I CARRY A WEAPON JUST TO THREATEN OR SCARE SOMEONE?**

Threatening or scaring another person with a weapon is considered “assault.”

**WHAT ARE OTHER LAWS CONCERNING GUNS?**

You may not shoot any firearm in or upon a public street. NRS 202.280.

It is a misdemeanor to shoot a firearm at any dwelling, building or other structure. If the structure is occupied, it is a category B felony. NRS 202.285.

It is illegal to shoot any firearm from any building, structure of vehicle. This can be from a misdemeanor to a category B felony depending on the circumstances. NRS 202.287.

Alterring, removing or destroying the serial number on a firearm is a category C felony. Possessing such a firearm is a category D felony. NRS 202.277.

**Fireworks**

**CAN I BUY FIREWORKS?**

In Nevada, the board of county commissioners in each county has the power to pass ordinances regulating the sale, use, storage and possession of fireworks. NRS 244.367. Check with your local county commission to determine if the purchase and use of fireworks is legal.

For example, in Clark County, it is illegal for any person to possess, store, sell, use or explode any fireworks without a permit. Clark County Code 13.12.030. In Washoe County, the use of fireworks is prohibited in county parks without a written permit. Washoe County Code 95.230.

You should always take special care and be responsible when using fireworks since they can be extremely dangerous. If you cause injury or damage from using fireworks, you and your parents may be held responsible.
Alcohol & Other Drugs

Many of you are aware of the alcohol and drug abuse problems among your friends, classmates and teens in general. This chapter will discuss the laws that involve alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse. Drugs and alcohol are directly related to crime and violence. Learn more about the laws, and remember to “Just say NO.”

Alcohol

WHAT IS AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE?

Any drink that has at least 1/2 of one percent alcohol is an alcoholic beverage. This includes beer, wine or any other liquor. NRS 202.015.

WHEN CAN I BUY AND DRINK AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE?

You must be 21 years old before you can buy, drink or possess alcoholic beverages. NRS 202.020.

WHAT IF I DRINK OR BUY ALCOHOL BEFORE I’M 21?

If you purchase or possess alcohol, you have committed a misdemeanor. NRS 202.020.

WHAT IF SOMEONE SELLS OR GIVES ME AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE?

It is against the law to sell or give alcoholic beverages to a person under age 21. Possession of an alcoholic beverage by a minor in public is a misdemeanor. This does not apply to possession in the presence of the minor’s parent, guardian or physician in a nonpublic place. NRS 202.020 and 202.055.
WHAT IF I’M RIDING IN A CAR AND SOMEONE ELSE IN THE CAR HAS AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE?

No person of any age shall have any open containers of alcohol in a motor vehicle, whether he or she is the driver or the passenger. NRS 484.448.

It is illegal for a person under the age of 21 to possess or transport alcohol. If no one in the car is above the age of 21, it is illegal for anyone in the vehicle to have alcohol, open or unopen. NRS 202.020.

WHAT IF I’M NOT DRINKING, BUT I’M HOLDING SOMEONE ELSE’S DRINK?

If you are under 21, it is illegal for you to hold someone else’s drink. It is illegal for a person under 21 to possess and transport alcohol. NRS 202.020.

Possession is not limited to ownership. It can also include knowingly being in the presence of drugs or alcohol in an area over which you have control, such as a backpack, locker or car.

WHAT IS DUI?

DUI stands for “driving under the influence” of alcohol or other drugs. Law enforcement officers determine if a person is under the influence of alcohol by testing the amount of alcohol in his or her blood. A blood test or a Breathalyzer indicates the blood alcohol level. In Nevada, a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08% is considered driving under the influence. A conviction for a DUI can include fines, loss of license and jail time. NRS 484.379.

SUPPOSE I GO INTO A STORE OR BAR TO BUY AN ALCOHOLIC DRINK USING A FAKE ID OR A DRIVER’S LICENSE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

It is against the law for you to attempt to use a fake ID or driver’s license, or to borrow a license that is not yours for the purpose of purchasing alcohol. Violation is a misdemeanor. NRS 202.040.

If you appear to be under 21, you will be asked to prove your age, and if you cannot, the store cannot legally sell alcohol to you.

CAN I SERVE ALCOHOL IN A RESTAURANT IF I’M A WAITER?

If you are age 21 or older and work in a restaurant, you are permitted to serve alcohol if you attend a certification class and obtain a valid alcohol education card. NRS 369.630.

Tobacco

WHAT IS TOBACCO?

Tobacco is an agricultural crop usually rolled in paper and smoked. Sometimes tobacco leaves are “dipped” or “chewed” so the nicotine is absorbed through saliva directly into the gums. Tobacco can be in the form of a cigarette, chewing tobacco, dip, cigars or pipe tobacco.

CAN I BUY CIGARETTES?

No. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase cigarettes or any tobacco products. NRS 202.2493.

Even if a friend tries to give you a cigarette, it is also illegal for anyone to give or sell cigarettes, cigarette tobacco or cigarette paper to any minor. NRS 202.2493.

CAN I WORK AT A STORE THAT SELLS CIGARETTES?

Yes. If you are under the age of 18, you may sell or transport tobacco products as part of your job. NRS 202.2493.
WHAT IF A POLICE OFFICER FINDS CIGARETTES IN MY POSSESSION?

A police officer can seize any tobacco or tobacco product found in your possession and issue you a warning.

Other Dangerous Drugs

WHAT ARE SOME OTHER DANGEROUS DRUGS?

There are many other dangerous drugs besides tobacco and alcohol. You should consider any drug not prescribed to you as dangerous.

**Hallucinogens:** Substances that affect the central nervous system distorting the perception of reality. The most well known are “ecstasy,” “angel dust,” PCP, LSD, marijuana and mushrooms.

**Stimulants** (uppers): Substances that temporarily increase the function of the heart, lungs, brain or nervous system. Commonly used stimulants are “speed,” “crack,” “coke,” “crank,” “crystal meth” and “yellow jackets.”

**Sedatives** (downers): Substances that depress or slow down the body’s functions inducing sleep or sedation. These drugs are also referred to as tranquilizers or sleeping pills. Sedatives such as Valium, Ambien and Xanax are legal if prescribed for you by a physician.

**Inhalants:** Substances that are sniffed or “huffed” to give the user an immediate high or head rush. Aerosols and cleaning supplies are commonly abused.

**Narcotics** such as heroin, cocaine and opium are illegal. Narcotics such as morphine, oxycontin and methadone are legal but only if prescribed for you by a doctor and taken according to your doctor’s directions. NRS 453.336.

It is illegal to use, possess, transport, sell, furnish or give away any of these dangerous drugs. NRS 453.321.

WHAT IS A “DATE RAPE” DRUG?

A date rape drug is a drug used by an offender to make another person unconscious for the purpose of committing a crime such as sexual assault or another sexual offense. These drugs may be colorless and odorless and can easily be put into someone’s drink. Common date rape drugs are GHB and “ecstasy.”

IS IT OKAY TO TAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS?

Yes, but it is legal only if it is prescribed for you by a doctor and is taken according to your doctor’s directions. It is illegal to take another person’s prescriptions. It is also illegal to change a prescription or to use a fake ID to fill a prescription. This is a category E felony. NRS 454.311.

There is a statewide database to keep up with the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances. This is to prevent individuals from abusing and misusing prescription drugs. NRS 453.1545.

WHAT IS A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE?

A controlled substance is any substance that the government thinks should be monitored because of its potential for abuse.

Even substances that are legal can be considered illegal when combined or possessed with intent to make an illegal substance. Some over-the-counter medications, such as pseudoephedrine, can be used to make illegal substances, and therefore, purchases are limited by law. 18 U.S.C. § 844; NRS 639.410-639.420.

WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES OF DRUG CRIMES?

The three main drug crimes are drug possession, drug distribution and drug manufacturing.

- The crime of **drug possession** occurs any time a person possesses a controlled substance without authorization. The category of crime depends on the type of drug possessed and whether it is a first, second or later offense. NRS 453.336.
- The crime of **drug distribution** occurs whenever a person sells, furnishes, gives away, delivers or distributes any controlled substance, unless authorized by law. The category of crime depends on the type of drug possessed and whether it is a first, second or later offense. NRS 453.321.
- Anyone over 18 years old who gives or sells to someone under 18 years old a controlled substance commits a category A felony and may be responsible for the cost of the minor’s participation in a substance abuse program. NRS 453.334.
- The crime of **drug manufacturing** occurs when a person manufactures any controlled substance without legal authority or possesses any chemicals used to manufacture a controlled substance with
the intent to manufacture the controlled substance. This is a category B felony. NRS 453.322.

Anyone who intentionally allows a minor to be present during the manufacture, distribution or sale of controlled substances is guilty of a category A, B or C felony depending on whether any bodily harm is done to the minor. NRS 453.3325.

WHAT IS DRUG TRAFFICKING?

Drug trafficking is the possession of large quantities of illegal drugs. Trafficking is considered very serious because the amount of drugs indicates an intent to sell for profit instead of personal consumption. Penalties for trafficking are more severe and are determined by the amount and type of drug. Drug trafficking is a crime under Nevada and federal law. 21 U.S.C. § 841; NRS 453.3385-3405.

For example, in Nevada a person possessing 100 lbs. of marijuana will serve a minimum of one year in prison and pay a fine of $25,000 for the first offense. NRS 453.339. Even a significantly smaller amount of other drugs such as cocaine or crystal meth results in longer mandatory sentences. NRS 453.3385.

WHAT IS DRUG PARAPHERNALIA?

Drug paraphernalia can include almost anything used for drugs.

Federal and Nevada laws define drug paraphernalia as all equipment, products and materials of any kind that are intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing, producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance. 21 U.S.C. § 863; NRS 453.554.

Examples of drug paraphernalia are hypodermic needles, pipes, scales, rolling papers, “roach clips,” “bongs” and miniature cocaine spoons or vials.

WHAT IF I HAVE DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, BUT DO NOT HAVE ANY DRUGS?

You would be guilty of possession of drug paraphernalia if you have it with the intent to use drugs. Possession of paraphernalia is a misdemeanor. Delivering drug paraphernalia to a person under 18 years of age who is at least three years younger than the person delivering the goods is a category C felony. NRS 453.560, 453.562 and 453.566.

CAN THE POLICE SEARCH FOR DRUGS AT SCHOOL?

Yes. Periodic, unannounced visits to any local public school for the purpose of detecting the presence of illegal drugs are legal. Drug dogs are one method the police may use to search for drugs.

WHAT IF A DRUG DEALER SELLS NEAR SCHOOL OR AT SCHOOL?

This is a very serious offense. Anyone who is found guilty of selling narcotics or other illegal drugs within 1,000 feet of any public or private school, or school bus stop, must serve twice the sentence of the original drug offense. NRS 453.3345.
Parent-Child Relationship

When you become a parent, you have certain rights and responsibilities. The laws in Nevada encourage parents to care for their children and take certain responsibilities in raising their children. The law imposes certain rights and responsibilities on children too. This chapter will explain the legal responsibilities and duties of families. However, while there are many laws governing family relationships, respect is the key to a happy family.

Parents’ Responsibilities & Rights

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MY PARENTS AND ME?

Your parents have the right to custody and control of you. Custody and control means you must obey your parents and they must take care of you.

WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MY PARENTS?

You have the legal responsibility to follow your parents’ rules and go along with their decisions.

WHAT ARE MY PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES TO ME?

Parents must provide you with necessary food, clothing, shelter and medical care. They must provide supervision, discipline and protection for you. They must furnish support and education according to what they can afford. They cannot desert or abandon you.

WHAT IF I’M A PARENT?

Your parents’ responsibilities remain the same. If you are a minor and have a child, you are subject to the same responsibilities required of all parents.

CAN MY PARENTS DISCIPLINE ME?

Yes. Custody includes the right to discipline you, which may include physical discipline. They may be strict with you as long as they do not endanger your health and welfare.

DO I HAVE TO LIVE WHERE MY PARENTS TELL ME TO LIVE?

Yes. They have the legal right to determine where you live.
WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PARENTS DIVORCE?

Your parents are still your parents and have certain responsibilities to you. Where you live may be determined by your parents or by a judge. Your wishes, though, may be considered.

DO MY PARENTS HAVE A RIGHT TO MONEY I EARN?

Yes. Because they take care of you, they are entitled to your services and earnings to use for household expenses or your care.

CAN MY PARENTS OPEN MAIL ADDRESSED TO ME?

Yes. Your parents have control over and can accept delivery of your mail. U.S. Postal Service Domestic Mail Regulations § 153.22.

WHAT CAN MY PARENTS DO IF I REFUSE TO OBEY THEM?

They may discipline you as they deem appropriate as long as they don’t endanger your health or welfare. If you still refuse to obey them, your parents may ask the juvenile court system to assume responsibility over you by filing a complaint with the police stating that you are beyond their control.

DO I NEED MY PARENT’S PERMISSION TO GET A TATTOO?

This depends on local rules and regulations. Check with your local county health department.

For example, in Clark County, if you are under the age of 18, you cannot get a tattoo or body piercing unless you have your parent’s and/or guardians’ written consent and the procedure is done in their presence.

WHAT IS EMANCIPATION?

Emancipation occurs when you legally gain control and responsibility over all decisions in your life even if you are under the age of majority. Your parents are no longer responsible for you or your actions.

You may be emancipated before you turn 18 if you are at least 16 years old, married or living away from your parents or guardians. NRS 129.080.

Parents’ Liability

WHAT DOES “PARENTS’ LIABILITY” MEAN?

It means that your parents are responsible for you and for what you do until you are 18 years old or are legally emancipated.

IF I DAMAGE SOMEONE ELSE’S PROPERTY, WILL MY PARENTS HAVE TO PAY?

Your parents may be required to pay for any of your acts that cause injury or damage to another person or to their property up to $10,000. NRS 41.470.

Marriage

WHEN CAN I GET MARRIED?

You can get married any time after you turn 18. If you are between the ages of 16 and 18, you must get consent from your parents or guardians. NRS 122.020.
Child Abuse & Neglect

WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

Child abuse or neglect occurs when parents fail to meet their responsibilities to take care of their child. Abuse or neglect means physical or mental injury of a nonaccidental nature, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 under circumstances that indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm. NRS 200.508 and 432B.020.

A person who willfully causes a child under 18 years of age to suffer unjustifiable physical pain and suffering as a result of abuse or neglect may be charged with a category A, B or C felony depending on the nature of the abuse or neglect. NRS 200.508.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY PARENTS ABUSE OR NEGLECT ME?

If abuse or neglect happens to you at home or any other place, you can report it to a school teacher or counselor, the police or some adult you trust. Even if someone threatens to harm you if you ever tell about the abuse, you should report it for your own protection and welfare, and that of others.

WHO HAS TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT?

Any person who in the course of his or her profession knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected is required by law to make a report of the abuse or neglect to an appropriate law enforcement or child welfare agency. This includes professionals such as doctors, dentists, teachers, school administrators, librarians, counselors, police officers, clergy and social workers. It also includes adults who work for organizations providing organized activities for children. The report must be made as soon as reasonably practical, but in no event later than 24 hours after acquiring the knowledge of the abuse. Any person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions of the reporting statute is guilty of a misdemeanor. NRS 432B.121 and 432B.220.

Although private citizens are not yet required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect cases, it is strongly urged that citizens report the abuse or neglect for the welfare of the child.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A REPORT OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS FOUND TO BE TRUE?

A social worker for the Division of Child and Family Services will file a petition in the juvenile court to have the child removed from the home if conditions are unsafe. If appropriate services can be provided to the family, the child may be returned to the parents. If not, a child may be placed with relatives. If these options do not work, the parents’ parental rights may be terminated and the child will be placed for adoption.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?

If you are abused, neglected or without anyone to care for you, you may be taken to a safe place by a police officer. A social worker with the Division of Child and Family Services will interview you and
your parents before deciding what to do. The social worker may decide to return you to your parents or to arrange for you to be placed in a foster home for up to 72 hours before your hearing in juvenile court. NRS 432B.260.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

**Domestic violence** is when a family or household member attempts to cause or causes bodily injury to another family or household member or attempts to damage or damages their property. This includes spouses, former spouses, relatives by either blood or marriage, persons that have a child in common and persons who have a dating relationship. NRS 33.018.
Recreation

Recreational activities are fun and exciting but some can be hazardous. This chapter will outline a few activities that have certain regulations such as age and license requirements. It is always important to know what laws apply to you while hunting, camping, boating or enjoying other recreational activities. Have fun, but be responsible!

Hunting & Fishing

CAN I GO HUNTING?

Yes. If you are under 12 years of age, you may go hunting, but you must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or licensed adult hunter.

Any person under 12 years of age, even if accompanied by a parent, guardian or licensed adult hunter, cannot hunt big game in Nevada. Big game includes mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, three subspecies of bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope and mountain goat.

Any person 12 years of age or older who hunts in Nevada is required to have a hunting license. If you are between 12 and 18 years old, you must have a license and be accompanied by a parent, guardian or a licensed adult hunter. NRS 502.010.

HOW DO I GET A HUNTING LICENSE?

General hunting licenses are available from the Nevada Department of Wildlife or any authorized licensing agent.

Persons born after January 1, 1960, must complete a hunter education course before obtaining a hunting license. NRS 502.330.

When hunting, licensed hunters must carry their licenses and be ready to show them when asked. NRS 502.120.

DO I HAVE TO GET A FISHING LICENSE?

Yes, if you are 12 years of age or older you need a license to fish in Nevada. A license is not required for any person who fishes in a private lake or pond. NRS 502.010.

Water Sports

CAN I DRIVE A BOAT OR A JET SKI?

To operate a motorized vessel, such as a Jet Ski or motorboat, you must be at least 14 years old. NRS 488.580. Persons who were born on or after January 1, 1983, must possess a certificate of completion of a boater education course. The course must be approved by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. NRS 488.750.
HOW DO I GET A NEVADA BOATING CERTIFICATE?

You can apply for a boating certificate when you turn 14 years old. Check with the Nevada Department of Wildlife for study materials. Once you have passed the course, you will be issued a boater’s certificate. NRS 488.750.

Sports

CAN I YELL AT THE COACH OR REFEREE AT A SPORTS EVENT?

Yes, you may yell to encourage your team or to express your disagreement with a call or a play. However, as a player, spectator or parent, you are not allowed to harass, menace or assault a sports official, referee or coach as a result of performing his or her official duties.

As a student, if you violate the code of conduct at a sporting event, you can be punished and even suspended from athletic events. NAC 386.842.

Camping

WHERE CAN I CAMP?

You may camp in public areas that are marked for camping. That includes national parks, state parks and other areas set aside for camping. Most cities have laws against camping in city parks. Do not camp on private property without permission because that is “trespassing.” NRS 207.200.

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 camp.

Parks

ARE THERE SPECIAL RULES THAT I MUST FOLLOW IN A PARK?

Yes. Parks are public places for everyone to use and enjoy. You should check and carefully follow park rules when you are in a park. In addition to park rules, most local governments 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, use of drugs and alcohol, and other offenses. NRS 407.250.

Pets

ARE THERE LAWS THAT I MUST FOLLOW AS A PET OWNER?

Yes. As a pet owner, you must keep your pet safe from harm and make sure it gets the care it needs (food and water). NRS 574.120. Any dog or cat over three months old must be vaccinated for rabies annually and be licensed. NRS 441A.410.

DOES MY DOG HAVE TO BE ON A LEASH?

Your dog may have to be on a leash when on public property and when outside in many cities. Check with your county or city officials for local rules.
CAN I HAVE A WILD ANIMAL AS A PET?

No. You may not capture a wild animal and keep it as a pet. Stray dogs and cats are not considered wild animals.

ARE THERE LAWS ABOUT ANIMAL CRUELTY?

Yes. It is illegal to neglect your own pet, to kill or injure an animal belonging to someone else, or to treat any animal cruelly. Cruelty to a dog or cat can be a misdemeanor or a category C felony. NRS 574.100.

It is illegal to hold fights between dogs, roosters or other birds because such activity is considered a form of cruelty to animals. NRS 202.450 and 574.070.

WHAT IF I KNOW SOMEONE WHO ABUSES ANIMALS?

You should report this to an adult you trust, such as your parents, guardians, teacher, school counselor, law enforcement officer or school police officer. Someone who is cruel to animals should be considered dangerous and is likely to hurt people as well.

Parties

WHAT RULES SHOULD I REMEMBER IF I AM HAVING A PARTY OR GOING TO A PARTY?

A party or a social gathering is a time to be enjoyed with your friends. You should remember to be respectful of other people and their property. It is illegal to play loud music, drink alcohol if you are under 21, consume illegal drugs, engage in fighting or disturb the peace.

WHAT IF SOMEONE “CRASHES” MY PARTY?

Usually, parties are by invitation only. If someone shows up and was not invited, you may ask them to leave. “Crashing” a party is a misdemeanor. If the intruders refuse to leave, you or your parents/guardians can call the police to have them removed if necessary. NRS 207.200.

WHAT IS A CURFEW?

Curfew is the time set by a city or county when a minor is no longer allowed to be out on the street without lawful business. There are usual exceptions when you are traveling to and from work, for a school or church activity, or when you are with your parents. Check with your local city or county officials. Parents or the juvenile court may also impose individual curfews.

Gaming

WHAT IS GAMING?

Gaming, also known as gambling, is legal in Nevada. Gaming includes any game played with cards, dice, equipment or any mechanical, electromechanical or electronic device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative of value. Examples of such games include roulette, keno, bingo, blackjack, craps, poker, slot machine, or any other game or device approved by the Nevada Gaming Commission. This does not include games played with cards in private homes or residences in which no person makes money for operating the game. NRS 463.0152.

HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE TO GAMBLE?

You must be 21 years of age or older to gamble. NRS 463.350.

EVEN THOUGH I CAN’T GAMBLE, CAN I HANG OUT IN A CASINO?

No, persons under the age of 21, even with his or her parents or guardians, are not allowed to hang out or loiter in an establishment where any licensed game, race book, sports pool or wagering is operated or conducted. NRS 463.350.

CAN I HAVE DINNER IN A CASINO?

Yes, if you are under the age of 21 you may have dinner in a casino if the restaurant has dining tables separate from the bar. NRS 202.060.
As students in Nevada, you have a constitutional right to an education. There are rules and regulations you must follow concerning school attendance and conduct. School is meant to be a safe and structured learning environment for everyone. It is your responsibility to uphold school rules. Take pride in your school and education. This chapter outlines the basic rights and responsibilities of students, parents, teachers and administrators.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?

Yes. Education is critically important to your development as a productive citizen. The State of Nevada encourages you not only to graduate from high school, but to enter one of the many colleges within the state or to attend college outside the state. Doing so will increase your future earning capacity and improve your livelihood. At the very least, it is your legal responsibility and that of your parents or guardian to see that you go to school full time from ages seven to 18. It is also the duty of your parents to re-enroll you in a new school system if you move. All students enrolled in public schools must adhere to the school attendance and truancy laws. NRS 392.040 and 392.122.

WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A STUDENT?

You must obey lawful school rules and orders, follow the course of study and respect your teachers’ authority.

Each school system maintains its own code of conduct that conforms to minimum standards set by the Nevada Department of Education. If you do not receive a copy of the school code, you should consult your school. NRS 392.463.

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 and behavior; attend to your studies; and respect teachers and other students. You cannot hit, swear
at or abuse school employees. NRS 392.910.

While on the school grounds or under school supervision, you are required to avoid unlawful activity, including swearing, drinking or possessing alcohol, or using dangerous drugs. NRS 392.464 and 392.910.

You cannot do anything that injures other students or school employees, or that damages school property. If you cause personal injury or property damage to the school, you may be suspended or expelled. In addition, you and your parents may be held financially responsible. NRS 392.910, 392.466, 393.410 and 41.470.

WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS AS A STUDENT?

You should be allowed to learn in a safe classroom setting where order and discipline are maintained, and learn at the level of your capabilities. Every child is entitled to have access to a program of instruction that gives him or her the right to learn in a nondisruptive environment. No student has the right to be unruly to the extent that such disruption denies fellow students the right to learn. NRS 388.132 and 388.133.

IS BULLYING AGAINST SCHOOL RULES?

Yes. Bullying or harassing another student is generally prohibited by school rules and may result in suspension, expulsion, arrest and/or criminal prosecution. NRS 388.135.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I’M BULLIED?

Stop Bullying Now! offers the following tips on dealing with bullying:

- Tell your parents, guardians or other trusted adults.
- If you are bullied at school, tell your teacher, school counselor or principal. Telling is not tattling.
- Don’t fight back. Don’t try to bully those who bully you.
- Try not to show anger or fear. Students who bully like to see that they can upset you.
- Calmly tell the student to stop ... or say nothing and then walk away.
- Use humor, if this is easy for you to do. (For example, if a student makes fun of your clothing, laugh and say, “Yeah, I think this shirt is kind of funny looking too.”)

- Try to avoid situations in which bullying is likely to happen.

Adapted from the brochure, “What Should I Do If I’m Bullied” by Stop Bullying Now!, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, found at www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov.

CAN I BRING MY CELL PHONE TO SCHOOL?

You should check with your individual school district policy concerning the use and possession of a pager, cell phone or any other similar electronic device. NRS 392.4637. Most Nevada school districts allow the devices in schools with strict policies about when they can be used.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM TO SCHOOL?

Many schools enforce school uniform policies. Check your individual school’s policies.

CAN I GO TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL?

Yes. The school must qualify as a private school under Nevada law. NRS 394.130. There are also certain state requirements for enrolling in a homeschooleding program. NRS 392.700.

ARE THERE SCHOOL PROGRAMS FOR MINORS WITH DISABILITIES?

Yes. Both the federal government and Nevada require that educational programs for every kind of disability be made available. This includes programs for those with a speech disability, the physically disabled, the learning disabled and the severely disabled. 20 U.S.C. § 1400; NRS 395.010.

Parents’ Responsibilities & Rights

WHAT ARE MY PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN IT COMES TO MY EDUCATION?

Besides ensuring that you attend school regularly, parents have other responsibilities. They can be criminally liable for your conduct in school. NRS 392.210. Parents should monitor and supervise your schoolwork and any educational activities in which
you are involved. NRS 392.4575.

Parents are also responsible for your immunizations as required by the state health officer. NRS 392.435.

**WHAT ARE MY PARENTS’ RIGHTS WHEN IT COMES TO MY SCHOOL?**

Your parents have the right to see your school records and to talk with teachers and school administrators about you.

Your parents may refuse permission for you to have a physical or psychological examination. When a physical or psychological impairment, other than visual, has been noted, a report must be given to your parents. NRS 392.420.

Your parents also have the right to be consulted about your placement in special programs for educationally or physically disabled students. 20 U.S.C. § 1415.

The school’s code of conduct must be distributed to each student at the beginning of each school year. NRS 392.463.

Parents have a right to be informed of their education-related responsibilities as a parent to their children. NRS 392.4575.

**Schools’ Responsibilities & Rights**

**WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS?**

Generally, the responsibilities of teachers and administrators are determined by your school district.

Every teacher in the public school system must follow the content standards, use approved textbooks, and support the rules and regulations required by law.
CAN TEACHERS OR ADMINISTRATORS OPEN MY SCHOOL LOCKER AND SEARCH IT? CAN THEY SEARCH PURSES, CARS, ETC.?

Yes. Under certain circumstances, school administrators may search your locker, request that you empty the contents of your locker and/or purse, and question you about suspected thefts. School personnel may also search your vehicle. The use of detection dogs and metal detectors is permitted.

School officials can conduct a search if they have reasonable suspicion. This can be a reasonable belief or a tip from another student or a teacher. If the search produces an illegal weapon, substance or evidence of criminal activity, the administrator will then contact the local police.

WHAT IS A SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER?

A school police officer is a full-time law enforcement officer in the schools with the goal of creating a safe, secure and nurturing learning environment.

School police officers are liaisons between the school and the local police department. They also are positive role models for many students who can help change the negative perception of law enforcement in the school and community.

Truancy

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DECIDE TO SKIP SCHOOL FOR A FEW DAYS?

You must attend school for the number of days required. Your parents must be notified if you are absent. NRS 392.130. If you violate this law, you may be charged with the offense of truancy. Truancy is the absence of a student from school without permission.

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF I CONTINUE TO SKIP SCHOOL?

If you are a habitual truant (three or more unexcused absences in a school year), the school principal must report you to a school police officer or local law enforcement agency. NRS 392.140 and 392.144. A citation then will be issued for you and your parents/guardians to appear in juvenile court. NRS 392.149. Your parents/guardians may also face being charged with an offense. NRS 392.170.

Suspension & Expulsion

WHAT IS SUSPENSION?

Suspension is the temporary removal of a student from school or class for misconduct. You can be suspended by the principal of your school for “good cause” or when other means of correction fail to bring about proper conduct.

A student may not be suspended or expelled until he or she has been given notice of the charges, an explanation of the evidence and an opportunity for a hearing. However, a student who poses a danger to others, is a continued disruption to the educational process, is found selling any controlled substance or is found in possession of a dangerous weapon may be removed from school immediately. NRS 392.467.

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

Each school has its own code of conduct and penalties based on specific misconduct.
WHAT IS EXPULSION?

*Expulsion* means that you are not allowed to attend your regular school as punishment for violating a school rule. If you are expelled, you must be given notice of the charges against you and an opportunity for a hearing. NRS 392.467.

When expelled for a firearm violation, you cannot attend any public school in the state except alter-

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392.4675.

Generally, you will also be prohibited from entering school grounds and from participating in any extra-
curricular activities or sports.

WHAT IS “GOOD CAUSE?”

“Good cause” refers to acts constituting grounds for suspension or for expulsion. Some, but not all such acts include the following:

* Damage to or theft of school property;
* Damage to or theft of private property;
* Causing, attempting or threatening physical injury to another;
* Possessing, selling or providing a firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object;
* Possessing, selling, providing or being under the influence of a dangerous drug, alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant;
* Possessing or using tobacco;
* Committing an obscene act or regularly using profanity or vulgarity; and
* Disrupting school activities or otherwise defying authority.

DO I HAVE ANY WAY TO DEFEND MYSELF FROM BEING SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED?

You can be suspended or expelled for reasons listed under “good cause.” This extends to conduct occurring off school grounds and after school hours if you are at a school-sponsored function. If you are facing suspension, you and your parents should attend the meeting that is called to consider your case. There, you may present your side of the facts.

If you are facing expulsion, there is a system of rules to follow, including a hearing held by the principal that you and your parents should attend. A notice will be sent 10 days before the hearing. The law sets time limits for this hearing and for the one later by the school board.

If the local school board decides to expel you, you and your parents have 30 days to appeal the decision to the board of education, which will hold a hearing within 20 days of the request. The decision of the board is final.

If you are a disabled student, you may be entitled to additional rights when you face suspension or expulsion. You should contact the school district’s director of special education to inquire.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL IF I AM EXPELLED?

Even if you have been expelled from one school, you must still go to school if you are under 18 years old. Your parents will have to find another school that will accept you. This may include private schools, another public school district or use of a tutor. A few school districts offer alternative schools for this purpose.

WHAT IF I SHOW UP AT A SCHOOL FUNCTION OR SPORTING EVENT WHILE I’M SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED?

You could be charged with trespassing (see Chapter 3) and your punishment could be extended. Most schools have a policy of not allowing you to participate in any school-related activities until your term of punishment is completed.
WHAT IS A SCHOOL FUNCTION?

A school function is anything sponsored and controlled by school officials. Even if the event is held off school property, you are required to follow all school rules. This includes sporting events, dances, plays, pep rallies and fund raisers.

WHAT ARE SCHOOL GROUNDS?

School grounds are areas defined as part of the campus. This includes the main campus, auditoriums, sporting arenas, football and baseball fields, tracks, vocational facilities and the cafeteria.

School bus stops are not considered a part of the school grounds. However, all laws and school policies must be followed while waiting on your bus. If you violate a law or school policy while at the bus stop, you may face penalties at school and criminal or civil prosecution.

IS IT WRONG TO HANG AROUND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AFTER SCHOOL IS DISMISSED?

Unless you have some lawful business there, it is considered loitering, which is a misdemeanor. NRS 207.270 and 393.410.
Transportation

In our fast-paced society, we are constantly traveling to and from school, church, practices, club meetings and social events. You may prefer to provide your own transportation, such as a bicycle, skateboard or scooter. Soon you will be old enough to drive an automobile or a motorcycle. There are laws in Nevada regarding bicycles, skateboards and motor vehicles. There are even laws for pedestrians. You should be aware of these laws for your protection and safety. Other helpful information in this chapter includes how to get a driver’s license and what to do if you are involved in an accident. Be street wise when it comes to transportation.

Bicycles

WHAT IS THE LEGAL DEFINITION OF BICYCLE?

A bicycle is a device propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having two or three wheels. NRS 484.019.

ARE THERE SPECIAL LAWS FOR BICYCLE RIDERS?

Yes. Every person riding a bicycle on a roadway must obey all the laws that the driver of a car must obey. A police officer may stop you if you break one of the laws. NRS 484.503.

Having your bicycle registered is a good idea, because the police will then have a record of the frame number. If your bike is stolen and found, the police will be able to return it to you.

DO I NEED ANY SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TO RIDE A BICYCLE?

It is recommended that when riding a bicycle, you should:

• Adjust your bicycle to fit;
• Before riding, inflate tires properly and check that your brakes work;
• Wear bright or reflective clothing so drivers and other bikers can see you; and
• Have reflectors on the front and rear of your bicycle and use a light when riding at night.

Adapted from the brochure “Kids and Bicycle

In Nevada, every bicycle must have:
- A permanent and regular seat;
- A brake that will make the wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement; and
- A white light on the front, red reflectors on the rear and reflective material visible from both sides of the bicycle. NRS 484.505 and 484.513.

WHAT ROAD RULES SHOULD I FOLLOW?

Do not ride on sidewalks. Ride in the bicycle lane, if one is provided. If there is no bicycle lane, ride as close to the right-hand side of the road as you can. Ride in the same direction as the cars are going. NRS 484.171 and 484.509.

Stop at red lights and stop signs. NRS 484.283 and 484.503.

Do not carry another person on the handlebars or on your bicycle unless there is a separate seat for the passenger. NRS 484.505.

Always keep at least one hand on the handlebars when you are carrying things. NRS 484.511.

When riding a bicycle on the roadway, do not ride more than two next to each other. NRS 484.509.

Do not attach yourself and your bicycle to a car or other motor vehicle on a roadway. NRS 484.507.

Bicycles have right of way on a bike lane or path, but must otherwise yield to cars and pedestrians. NRS 484.324.

Skateboards, Roller Skates & Scooters

ARE THERE LAWS ABOUT SKATEBOARDS, ROLLER SKATES AND SCOOTERS?

This depends on local rules and regulations. Check with your local city or county officials.

For example, the Las Vegas Municipal Code provides that it is illegal to ride or use roller skates, scooters, skateboards or similar devices on any roadway, except while crossing a street at a crosswalk or on any other public property where signs have been displayed prohibiting their use.
Motor Vehicles

WHAT IS A MOTOR VEHICLE?

A motor vehicle is any vehicle that runs on its own power. NRS 482.075 and 482.135. This includes cars, buses, trucks, motorcycles, motor scooters, motorbikes, mini-bikes, go-carts and mopeds.

ARE THERE LAWS ABOUT MINI-BIKES, MOTOR SCOOTERS, MOTORCYCLES AND MOPEDS?

Yes. The same laws apply to all motor vehicles. Aside from a few exceptions such as mopeds, no motor vehicle may be driven on public roads unless it is registered; you must still have a driver’s license to drive it on the public roadways. NRS 482.205, 482.206, 482.210 and 483.230.

All motor vehicles have to be equipped to meet legal requirements for lights, brakes, windshields, mirrors and horns. NRS 484.541.

There are additional laws that riders of motorcycles must observe. You can find all of these laws for motorcycles and other motor vehicles in the Nevada Driver Handbook, which you can get free at any Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles office. You must be at least 16 years of age to operate a motorcycle, and you must have successfully passed a driving test or motorcycle safety course. NRS 486.071.

WHAT IF I JUST BORROW A FRIEND’S CAR?

As a driver, you are responsible for anything that is wrong with or illegal about the car, even if you borrowed it from a friend or relative.

WHAT IS THE SPEED LIMIT?

Nevada law generally sets a limit up to 65 miles per hour on highways, and 15 or 25 miles per hour in school crossing zones. Additionally, there is a “basic speed law” stating that the proper speed is one that is right for the circumstances such as weather, visibility, traffic, surface and condition of the road. This can be slower than the posted speed limit but never faster. Your speed should not cause a danger to people or property. NRS 484.361, 484.363, 484.368 and 484.366.

If you are ticketed for speeding in a construction zone where workers are present, your fine will be doubled. NRS 484.3667.

WHAT IF I AM CHARGED WITH A TRAFFIC VIOLATION?

In Nevada, if you are under 18 years of age, all traffic offenses go through juvenile court. However, the juvenile court may transfer the case to a justice court or municipal court if the juvenile court determines that the transfer is in the best interests of the child. Once you turn 18, all traffic offenses are handled in adult court. NRS 62B.370 and 62B.380.

If the judge finds you have violated a traffic law, you can be reprimanded or you can receive one or more of the following penalties:

- You may be ordered to pay a fine;
- Your driving privileges may be suspended or restricted;
- You may be required to produce evidence that your vehicle is up to code requirements;
- You may be asked to perform community service projects for a given time; or
- You may required to attend a driver training school. NRS 193.150, 483.475 and 483.477.

WHAT DO I DO IF I SEE AN AMBULANCE WITH ITS EMERGENCY LIGHTS AND SIREN ON?

If you encounter any emergency vehicle (ambulance, police car, fire truck, etc.) displaying emergency lights you should slow down, carefully yield the right of way and move as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the highway clear of any intersection, and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed. NRS 484.323.

CAN I PASS A SCHOOL BUS THAT IS STOPPED IN THE ROAD?

No, it is illegal to pass a stopped school bus loading or unloading passengers. NRS 484.357.

CAN I GET A TRAFFIC TICKET IF MY LIGHTS AREN’T WORKING OR SOMETHING ELSE IS WRONG, EVEN IF I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT IT?

Yes. It is your responsibility to keep your vehicle in good working condition.
CAN OBJECTS BE HUNG FROM THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR?

You cannot drive a motor vehicle with any object displayed or installed that may affect or reduce the driver’s clear vision through the windshield, side or rear windows. NRS 484.619.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM STOPPED AND GIVEN A TICKET?

If you are stopped, you should remain in your vehicle. Do not walk back to the officer. Listen carefully to the officer’s instructions. Keep your hands visible to the officer at all times. Remain calm and be courteous ... there is always room for kindness. Any passengers should remain quiet so that the driver can communicate with the officer more easily. If the officer issues you a citation for a traffic violation, or for any other violation, you must appear in traffic court. NRS 484.799. If you do not appear in court, it becomes very serious. A warrant for your arrest will be issued, your license will be suspended and you may incur a court fine.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE A CAR WRECK?

If you are involved in a traffic accident, you must stop at once and notify the police as soon as possible. If someone is injured, provide first aid if you are able and call for medical assistance. Before the police arrive, use whatever means available to warn other traffic (flags, flares, etc.).

You must provide your name, address, registration, the name of the legal owner of the vehicle, and, if asked, you must show your drivers’ license. NRS 484.223.

You should get the names and addresses of anyone else involved and any witnesses. At the scene of the accident, drivers involved should be prepared to provide proof of automobile liability insurance, including the name and address of the insurance company. If unable to furnish such information at the scene of the accident, the driver should do so later.

WHAT IF I LEAVE THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT?

Do not leave the scene of the accident. Stay until the police arrive. If you leave, you can be charged with leaving the scene of an accident. This is commonly known as a “hit and run.” This is a serious offense and will be considered a category B felony if death or personal injury occurs. NRS 484.219 and 484.221.

WHAT IF I HIT ANOTHER VEHICLE OR DAMAGE PROPERTY AND THE OWNER IS NOT THERE?

If your vehicle hits an unattended vehicle, you should immediately notify the police. If you are unable to do so, you should have a passenger do so when available. NRS 484.227.

WHAT IF I AM CAUGHT WITH AN OPEN CONTAINER OF ALCOHOL IN THE VEHICLE?

No person shall have any open containers of alcohol in the motor vehicle whether they are the driver or a passenger. Penalties may be doubled for violations committed in work zones. NRS 484.448.

DO I HAVE TO WEAR A SEAT BELT?

Everyone six years of age or older must use a seat belt whether riding in the front or back seat. NRS 484.641.

Children under the age of six or 60 pounds must ride in a federally approved, size appropriate, properly secured child seat or booster seat. NRS 484.474.

The driver is responsible for ensuring that each child is properly restrained in the vehicle. NRS 484.474.
Violation of the seat belt law can result in a fine up to $25 or a sentence to perform a certain number of community service hours. NRS 484.641.

WHAT IF I DRIVE WITHOUT A LICENSE?

You could be ticketed or taken into custody depending on your age. Driving without a license is a misdemeanor. NRS 483.550 and 483.620.

Driver’s License

WHEN CAN I GET AN INSTRUCTION PERMIT?

When you are 15-1/2 years or older, you may apply to the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles for an instruction permit. You must pass the vision and written knowledge tests. The application of any person under the age of 18 for an instruction permit or driver’s license must be signed and verified by the applicant’s parent or guardian. NRS 483.280, 483.300 and 483.330. Many schools offer instruction to help with both the written and the driving portions of the test.

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 may only drive with a licensed driver age 21 or older with at least one year of licensed driving experience seated in the front seat next to you. NRS 483.280.

HOW CAN I GET A DRIVER’S LICENSE?

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

- Be at least 16 years old to apply;
- Complete an application;
- Present proof of your name and age by showing your birth certificate or other approved document;
- Pass a vision and hearing test; and
- Pay a fee. NRS 483.250, 483.290 and 483.330.

If you are 16 or 17 years of age, you must also:

- Have completed a driver education course or present certification from your parents/guardians or licensed driving instructor that you have had at least 50 hours of supervised experience driving with a licensed driver, including 10 hours of driving after dark;
- Be free of any traffic violations, at-fault accidents and alcohol or drug convictions in the six months before applying for a license; and
- Have held an instruction permit for at least six months. NRS 483.2521.

WHAT RESTRICTIONS ON DRIVING DO I HAVE?

Drivers under the age of 18 may not:

- Transport a person who is under 18 years of age for the first six months after the license is issued, unless the person is a member of your immediate family; or
- Drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m., unless traveling to or from a scheduled event. NRS 483.2523 and 484.466.

WHEN MY PARENTS SIGN FOR MY LICENSE, WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THEM?

Your parents or guardians can be held financially responsible if you should be involved in an accident. NRS 483.300.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED BEFORE I CAN DRIVE?

Besides your driver’s license, you will need to have a vehicle registration and proof of insurance. Failure to provide proof of insurance can result in suspension of your license. NRS 482.205, 485.308 and 485.326.
WHAT ABOUT HITCHHIKING AND OTHER ROADSIDE RULES?

It is against the law to hitchhike. No person shall stand on a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the operator of any vehicle. NRS 484.331.

Pedestrians

WHAT ARE PEDESTRIAN RULES?

A person who is walking is a pedestrian. Pedestrians should always use sidewalks if available. If there are no sidewalks, they should walk close to the left-hand edge of the roadway facing oncoming traffic. NRS 484.111 and 484.331.

If you are a pedestrian, you have the right of way in crosswalks, whether or not white lines mark them. As a pedestrian, you also have the responsibility to not step into the path of an oncoming vehicle just because you have the right of way. NRS 484.325.

It is illegal for any pedestrian to cross a road at any point between intersections that are controlled by traffic control signal devices, except in an officially designated crosswalk. This is known as “jay walking.” NRS 484.327.
Getting a job and having your own spending money is important to most teenagers. Our society has set a few regulations, however, regarding how old you must be to work and how many hours a day you can work. Because education is your primary concern, several laws have been enacted to help teenagers who want or need to work. This chapter will address the laws regarding teenagers and jobs.

Work Permits

AM I OLD ENOUGH TO GET A JOB?

No one under 14 years old may be employed in a public place without written permission of a local district court judge or juvenile court referee. This does not include jobs connected with delivery of newspapers, farmwork, housework, babysitting or employment as a performer in a motion picture. NRS 609.245; NCA 609.150.

There are certain jobs that have age limitations. NRS 609.190 to 609.230.

WHERE DO I GET A WORK PERMIT?

Your county Department of Juvenile Justice Services issues work permits. This permit allows you to work outside school hours or during vacation periods. This involves completing an application and acquiring the verification that you are presently enrolled in school.

HOW MANY HOURS A DAY CAN I WORK?

If you are under 16, you may not work more than three hours a day or more than 18 hours a week when school is in session, or more than eight hours a day or more than 40 hours a week when school is not in session. NRS 609.240 and 609.250.
When can I work full time?

You may work full time if you are 16 years old or older. NRS 609.240.

Permitted & Prohibited Work Places

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

No. There are places where it is dangerous for a person under 16 years old to work. These include the following:

- Preparation of any dangerous or poisonous acids;
- Manufacturing paints, colors or white lead;
- Dipping, drying or packing matches;
- Manufacturing goods for immoral purposes;
- Any mine, quarry, smelter or ore reduction works;
- Laundry;
- Tobacco warehouse, cigar factory or other factory where tobacco is manufactured or prepared;
- Any distillery, brewery or any other establishment where malt or alcoholic liquors are manufactured, packed, wrapped or bottled;
- Any glass furnace or smelter;
- Outside construction and repair of electric wires;
- Running or management of elevators, lifts or hoisting machines;
- Oiling hazardous or dangerous machinery in motion;
- Switch tending, gate tending or track repairing;
- Rakeman, fireman, engineer, motorman or conductor upon any railroad; and
- Establishments where nitroglycerin, dynamite, dualin, guncotton, gunpowder or other high or dangerous explosives are manufactured, compounded or stored. NRS 609.190; NAC 609.150.

Can I work in a casino?

Any person under the age of 21 cannot work as a gaming employee except in the counting room. NRS 463.350.

How much should I be paid?

If you have a work permit, for most jobs you should be paid at least the legal current minimum wage, which increases periodically. Check with your counselor or other school authority for the current minimum wage.

If you are learning on the job (apprentice or work experience), you may need a special license that allows the employer to pay you less than the job would ordinarily earn.

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

You should first bring the matter to your employer's attention and give the employer the chance to correct the problem. If that is unsuccessful, you can make a complaint to the U.S. Department of Labor, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Wage and Hour Division or the Nevada Labor Commission, or your parent or guardian may sue the employer.

Can I sell magazines or other things door to door for my class?

Yes, if you are taking part in a school funds drive or other fund-raising activity you may sell door to door, but you should have some kind of identification with you. For your own safety, anytime you are selling door to door, an adult should properly supervise you. NAC 609.150.

Be aware that certain areas (apartments and neighborhoods) may have “no solicitation” rules. This would prevent you from selling door to door in these areas.

Can I work in a restaurant where alcohol or liquor is served?

You must be 18 or older to work in a public dance hall or an area of a casino where the sale of alcohol is the primary activity (e.g., a bar). NRS 609.210.

If you are 21 or older and work in a restaurant, you are permitted to serve alcohol if you attend a certification class and obtain a valid alcohol education card. NRS 369.630.
ARE THERE SPECIAL LAWS FOR BABYSITTERS?

No, but generally the recommended age for babysitting is 14 years old or older. When babysitting, it is a good idea to:

- Get a list of emergency telephone numbers like police and fire departments and keep it by the phone;
- Get the number where the parents can be reached and keep it by the phone;
- Check the children often – do not get distracted from your duties by watching television or reading a book;
- Do not open the door to anyone unless the parents have given their approval;
- Never leave the home until the parents return;
- Do not have friends visit or use the telephone unnecessarily;
- Do not take advantage of your employer by making too much noise, eating too much food or cluttering the house; and
- Make sure to work only for persons approved by your parents.

Many police departments and the local American Red Cross chapter have “babysitting safety” courses, which help train sitters to deal with emergency situations and safety/security concerns.
Civil Responsibility

This entire book has been designed to teach you your rights and your responsibilities under the law. When you show respect for authority and the law, the law is better able to protect your rights. While you may never be accused of a crime, you should still be aware that everything you do might affect other people or their property. Therefore, in this chapter you will learn about the responsibilities and consequences for not using reasonable care in dealing with others (the field of civil law known as torts). You will also learn about your right to enter into contracts and the responsibilities that go along with that right.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL LAW?

Criminal law is the term that is used to describe laws that have been enacted by the legislative branch of government for the purpose of preventing harm to society and establishing punishment to be imposed for wrongful conduct. As opposed to punishing wrongs against society, civil law is the term used to describe laws that do not involve criminal matters and relate to private rights and remedies.

If you are guilty of violating a criminal law, you may face probation, time in jail or a fine. However, if you are liable under civil law, you will not be put in jail, but may be ordered by the court to do or not do something, or pay a sum of money to the other person as damages.

Since the purposes of criminal and civil laws are different, a person can be charged with a crime, and at the same time be held liable for damages under the civil law for the same conduct. For example, if a person punches you in the nose, you can file criminal charges against him or her (since society says that punching someone is wrong and has passed a law against such conduct), and you can also sue the person in civil court to pay for your medical bills or other damages you may have suffered.

WHAT IS A TORT?

By law, every person has a duty not to harm other people or their property. A tort is committed when you fail in your duty of care toward others and injure a person, damage his or her property, or harm his or her reputation. If your action was intentional, or even if it was simply negligent, you can still be held responsible. The person who is injured may sue you in civil court. The court may order you to stop the conduct and/or require you to pay damages.

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TORT AND A CRIME?

As part of civil law, tort law is not intended to prove criminal liability; rather, it is designed to help victims recover money for their lost wages, pain and suffering, medical bills, damage to property and other related costs. Some intentional torts may also be crimes, such as assault, battery and trespass.

WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN INTENTIONAL TORT AND NEGLIGENCE?

An intentional tort occurs when a person inten-
tionally harms someone or his or her property. For example, when someone intentionally breaks out windows in the school, he or she is committing an intentional tort and will be held responsible for the damages. He or she also has committed the crime of malicious mischief and may be tried in criminal court.

Negligence is an unintentional tort. It occurs when a person fails to use reasonable care causing harm to a person or property. For example, if a babysitter leaves a child unattended and the child is injured, the babysitter is negligent and can be held responsible for the injuries. Babysitters have a duty to use reasonable care. Even a person who cares greatly for others may be negligent if he or she creates an unreasonable risk of harm.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF TORTS?

A few examples of torts are:

**Assault:** The willful attempt or threat to unlawfully touch or hurt another person. An assault may be committed without actually touching or hurting the person.

**Battery:** The intentional and offensive touching of another person without his or her consent.

**False imprisonment:** Unlawfully keeping a person in a room, car or other place so he or she cannot leave or get out.

**Defamation:** A written or spoken false statement that damages the reputation or good name of a person.

**Fraud:** Intentionally telling someone something false or concealing the truth, resulting in that person losing money by believing what he or she was told.

**Trespass:** Intentionally going onto property that you do not own or have the right to be on, including fishing or hunting on the property or throwing things onto the property.

**Invasion of privacy:** Intentional and wrongful intrusion into someone's private activities in such a manner as to cause shame or humiliation.

WHAT IS LIBEL AND SLANDER?

Libel and slander are examples of an intentional civil wrong called defamation. Defamation is a written or spoken expression about a person that is false and damages that person’s reputation. NRS 41.331 to 41.360.

**Libel** is a written false statement, such as an article in the newspaper that harms someone’s reputation.

**Slander** is a spoken false statement that harms someone’s reputation.
WHAT IF I AM A MINOR AND COMMIT A TORT?

Even though you are a minor, you can still be held responsible for your actions if such results in injury to a person or property.

DO MY PARENTS HAVE TO PAY FOR MY TORTS?

If you hurt someone or damage property through willful misconduct, your parents or guardians can be held liable for up to $10,000 of the damages. NRS 41.470. If the negligence or willful misconduct of a minor involves a firearm, the minor’s parents or guardians can be held liable for all damages if they knew that the minor had previously been adjudicated delinquent or convicted of a criminal offense, that the minor was likely to commit a violent act, or knew that the minor intended to use the firearm for unlawful purposes and permitted the minor to use or possess a firearm. NRS 41.472. Remember that you may be held primarily responsible even if your parents are liable too.

BUT SUPPOSE IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT?

You can still be responsible if it was your carelessness that caused the accident. If you should have been more careful, then you can be held responsible for the damages resulting from your negligence.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF SOMEONE COMMITS A TORT AGAINST ME?

You may take legal action against another, but if you are under 18 and not emancipated, your parent or guardian must file the lawsuit for you and act as your representative. NRS 12.080.

Contracts

WHAT IS A CONTRACT?

A contract is a set of promises between two or more people to legally do or not do something. Contracts usually involve money, services or property. Contracts may be spoken or written and may be enforced in civil court. You may also file suit for civil damages arising out of the other party’s failure to do or not do what he or she promised in the contract.

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF CONTRACTS?

The most common are those that have to do with buying and selling different things, such as cars, bicycles, stereo equipment, houses and land. Goods or services bought “on time” or with payments to be made involve a contract.

WHO CAN MAKE CONTRACTS?

Any competent person 18 years old or older may make a contract. If you are under 18, you can also make contracts, but there are a number of restrictions. For instance, you may not make contracts about real property (houses or land). You cannot make contracts about personal property or any other property that does not belong to you. For example, you cannot make an agreement to buy a house or sell your father’s golf clubs.

If you are under age 18 and living away from home, you may contract for the necessities of life such as an apartment, household items, clothing and medical care. These contracts are binding on you – that is, you must pay your rent or your doctor’s bill – just as if you were an adult. You do not have the right to disaffirm or call off contracts for necessities of life once these goods and services have been provided to you. There are other contracts you cannot get out of simply because you are a minor or were a minor when the contract was made. Examples are hospital and medical treatment, college loans and insurance contracts.
Computers & The Internet

CAN I USE INFORMATION FROM THE INTERNET FOR SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS?

Yes, you may use the information you find online in your schoolwork. You can use the Internet in a similar way as you would use a book. Check with your school for policies on Internet use.

If you use information from the Internet, be sure to ask your teacher how to reference your source. Copying information without referencing your source and representing it as your own is known as plagiarism.

IS EVERYTHING ON THE INTERNET TRUE?

No, as with any information, some Web sites may not be accurate. There are no electronic filters to separate fact from fiction; therefore, it is a good idea to check several different Web sites to compare the information. Check with your parents or teachers about trustworthy sites.

DO I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT INTERNET SECURITY?

Yes, Internet security can prevent computer hacking, virus infection, personal identity theft and many other threats. Make sure a security program protects your computer, especially while online. Most schools run security software to prevent these Internet security threats. Check with your parents about security on your personal computers at home.

WHAT IS COMPUTER HACKING?

Computer hacking is knowingly and willfully accessing computer networks or an individual’s computer without authorization. This is a misdemeanor. NRS 205.4765.
CAN I DOWNLOAD MUSIC OR VIDEOS?

Yes, but only if you use a legal music or video downloading service operating with the consent of the recording or movie industry. Be careful using free download sites, as they may not comply with the law. Most legitimate sites charge a small fee per download for legal copies of music or videos.

WHAT MAKES DOWNLOADING MUSIC ILLEGAL?

It is against the law to download music, movies or other media if you are violating its copyright. A copyright is the legal right granted to an author, composer, playwright, artist or publisher to exclusive publication, production, sale or distribution of an original literary, musical, dramatic or artistic work. 17 U.S.C. §§ 102-122.

These items generally are protected under the U.S. Copyright Act, and if someone is suspected of violating a copyright, he or she and the owners of the computer can be prosecuted. The “No Electronic Theft Act,” or NET, allows for criminal enforcement of U.S. copyright laws against people who have no profit motive. 18 U.S.C. § 2319; 17 U.S.C. § 506.

The duplication of copyrighted material without the consent of the owner is illegal. Under federal law a person can be prosecuted for the criminal infringement of a copyright and be punished by up to 10 years in prison and fined up to $50,000. 17 U.S.C. § 506; 18 U.S.C. § 2319.

IS IT ILLEGAL TO SHARE GAMES AND SOFTWARE?

Yes, it is often illegal to copy and share copyrighted computer software. Software piracy is the unauthorized duplication of computer software. Copying software is an act of copyright infringement and is subject to civil and criminal penalties. It can be illegal whether you use pirated software yourself, give it away or sell it. Most software is copyright protected and the copyright is enforceable for 95 years. If you illegally copy software, you can be liable for any damages suffered by copyright owners up to $150,000 per title copied, or up to $250,000 and five years in jail. 17 U.S.C. § 506; 18 U.S.C. § 2319.

WHAT IF I ACCIDENTALLY GO TO AN ADULT WEB SITE?

Many schools and parents use Internet blocking software to prevent young people from accidentally entering an adult Web site. If you find yourself on a Web site that is adult in nature, you should immediately exit from the site and report it to your teacher or parent.
Internet Safety

ARE CHAT ROOMS SAFE?

No, chat rooms are not safe places to be while online. A great deal of negative things can result from chat rooms, such as bullying, stalking, kidnapping and murder. Not all chat or instant messaging is bad. Ask your parents to help you find safe areas to communicate with your peers.

WHAT IF I GET HARASSING E-MAILS OR INSTANT MESSAGES?

You should report any harassing e-mails or instant messages to your parents, guardians, teachers, counselor or anyone else who might be able to help you. These forms of harassing communication are commonly known as cyber bullying. In some situations, it may be necessary to notify the police.

WHAT IS CYBER BULLYING?

Cyber bullying involves the use of technology (e-mail, instant messaging, Web sites, cell phones, etc.) to harass or threaten another person. Cyber bullying is a form of harassment and is a misdemeanor. NRS 207.180 and 388.135.

CAN I DO OR SAY ANYTHING ONLINE?

Don’t assume you are anonymous online. Anything you do on your computer can be tracked back to you using computer technology.

WHAT IF I GET E-MAIL FROM SOMEONE I DON’T KNOW?

It is not a good idea to open e-mail from unknown persons or businesses. Many of these e-mails are called spam. Spam is unsolicited bulk e-mail, also known as electronic junk mail. Never open any attachments associated with spam or any other e-mail from unknown sources.

Another form of spam is called phishing and it consists of sending e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be a legitimate organization, such as a bank, eBay account or Internet service provider, asking for the user’s password, social security number, bank account numbers and credit card accounts. This information is then used for the purposes of identity theft. NRS 205.463 and 205.465. The best advice is to always be careful about giving out your personal information on the Internet.
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO STAY SAFE ONLINE?

Be aware that some Web sites are created to hurt people by spreading dangerous, hateful or false information. Never try science experiments found online without carefully checking with your science teacher and parents or guardians.

SafeKids.com offers this list of safety tips for the Internet:

- Do not give out personal information such as your name, address, telephone number or the name and location of your school without your parents’ or guardians’ permission.
- Tell your parent, guardian or teacher right away if you come across any information that makes you uncomfortable.
- Never agree to meet with someone you have met online without first checking with your parents or guardians.
- Never send anyone your picture or anything else without first checking with your parents or guardians.
- Do not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make you feel uncomfortable. If you get a message like this, tell a parent, guardian or teacher so that they can contact the Internet service provider.
- Talk to your parents or guardians about general computer and Internet rules. Teachers will also have school computer and Internet rules.
- Never give your password to anyone (even your best friend) other than your parents or guardians.
- Check with your parents, guardians or teachers before downloading or installing software or doing anything that could possibly hurt the computer or jeopardize your privacy.
- Always be a good online citizen and never do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.

Adapted from the brochure “Child Safety on the Information Highway” by SafeKids.com founder Larry Magid. (© 2004 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)
Cell Phones

ARE THERE ANY LAWS CONCERNING CELL PHONES?

While there are no specific laws in Nevada about cell phones, if you use your cell phone to check e-mail, instant message or chat, the same laws that apply to a computer and the Internet apply to your phone use.

Using a cell phone is a great way to keep in touch with your family and friends, but you must follow a few safety and etiquette rules to be a good cell phone citizen.

The following tips may be useful:

- Do not dial, text or talk while driving. It is dangerous and in some places it is illegal.
- Keep calls short and avoid talking too loud in public.
- Refrain from talking on your phone as a courtesy in places such as churches, restaurants, movie theaters and anywhere else that it would be a nuisance. It may be necessary to turn off your phone or place it on silent or vibrate.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid talking about private issues on a cell phone.
- Never interrupt a face-to-face conversation by answering your cell phone.
- Always check for cell phone regulations in any public places such as museums, doctor offices, sporting events, hospitals, libraries and elevators.
- Before you bring a cell phone to school, check your school’s policy.

WHAT IF MY CELL PHONE HAS A BUILT-IN CAMERA?

If your phone has a built-in camera, you may not be able to enter certain buildings or areas, such as a courthouse, your school or a gym locker room. You should check with local officials concerning any city ordinances prohibiting cell phones with cameras. You should never take a picture of anyone with your phone without his or her permission.

It is a violation of federal law to attempt to capture an image of another person’s private area without their consent and knowingly doing so under circumstances in which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy. This is a misdemeanor. 18 U.S.C. § 1801.
CAN I CARRY MY CELL PHONE ANYWHERE?

You can usually take your cell phone anywhere, but as a student, the possession of a cellular phone or pager at school without prior permission may be grounds for suspension or expulsion. Check with your school’s code of conduct for the specific local policy.

AM I AT RISK OF IDENTITY THEFT WHILE USING MY CELL PHONE?

Yes, any form of wireless communication can lead to identity theft or access to your personal information. To prevent this risk, follow these guidelines:

- Only give your cell phone number out to people you know and trust.
- Never reply to a text message from someone you do not know.
- Learn how to block unwanted callers.
- Keep your phone in a secure place at all times to prevent theft.

CAN I USE MY CELL PHONE IN A CAR?

If you are a passenger in a car, you should limit your conversations on a cell phone as this can be very distracting to a driver.

It is not advised to dial, answer, talk or text message on your phone while actively driving a vehicle. In the event of an emergency or if you must use your cell phone while driving, please keep the following safety tips from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) in mind:

- Get to know your wireless phone and its features such as speed dial and redial.
- Position your wireless phone within easy reach.
- Dial sensibly and assess the traffic; place calls when you are not moving or before pulling into traffic.
- Ask a passenger to make or take the call for you.
- Keep conversations short. Let the person you are speaking with know you are driving and end the call as soon as possible.
- Suspend your call in heavy traffic or bad weather.
- Do not take notes or look up phone numbers while driving.
- Use a hands-free device.
- If your wireless phone rings while you are driving, let the voicemail service take the call and listen to the message later.
- Do not engage in stressful or emotional conversations that might divert your attention from the road.
- Dial 911 or other local emergency numbers to report serious emergencies – it’s free from your wireless phone.
- Call roadside assistance or a special non-emergency wireless number when necessary.

Adapted from the online brochure “Wireless Safety Tips” by CTIA, found at www.ctia.org.
ADJUDICATED: To be decided by a court.
AIDING AND ABETTING: To help another person commit a crime.
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE: Any drink that has at least 1/2 of one percent alcohol.
APPEAL: Application for review of a case or a particular issue to a higher court.
APPELLATE COURT: A court that reviews the decision of an inferior court or governmental agency. An appellate court does not try cases, have juries or witnesses. It reviews questions of law or allegations of procedural error arising in the trial court.
ARSON: The act of willfully and maliciously setting fire to or burning any dwelling, house or other structure, personal property, timber, forest or vegetation, including your own.
ASSAULT: (1) Intentionally placing another person in reasonable fear of immediate bodily harm (criminal). (2) The willful attempt or threat to unlawfully touch or hurt another (civil).
ATTORNEY: An individual who has studied law, passed a test to be admitted to practice law and is licensed to practice law in accordance with local regulations.
ATTORNEY GENERAL: The chief legal officer of the executive branch of a state, territory or the federal government.
AUTONOMY: The right of an individual to absolute control of his or her self.
BATTERY: (1) Intentional and unlawful use of force or violence against another (criminal). (2) The intentional and offensive touching of another person without his or her consent (civil).
BICYCLE: A device propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having two or three wheels.
BREACH OF PEACE: Maliciously and willfully disturbing the peace by making loud noises, by fighting or by offensive conduct.
BULLYING: Repeated negative actions involving one or more people causing intentional harm to the victim.
BURGLARY: Unlawful entry into a house, vehicle, tent, boat or building with the intent to commit a crime inside.
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT: Physical or mental injury of a nonaccidental nature, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 under circumstances that indicate the child’s health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm.
CITY OR COUNTY ORDINANCE: Laws created in a city or county, which are applicable only within their boundaries.
CIVIL LAW: Term used to describe laws that relate to the way you interact with other individuals; laws that do not involve criminal matters and relate to private rights and remedies.
COMMON LAW: The system of laws, originated and developed in England, based on court decisions rather than codified written laws. The rule that you are “presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt” is an example of common law.
COMPUTER HACKING: Knowingly and willfully accessing a computer network or an individual’s computer without authorization.
CONTINGENCY FEE: A fee paid to an attorney based on a percentage of the sum awarded in the lawsuit or settlement.
CONTRACT: A set of promises between two or more people to legally do or not do something.
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE: Any substance that the government thinks needs to be monitored because of its potential for abuse.
COPYRIGHT: The legal right granted to an author, composer, playwright, artist or publisher to exclusive publication, production, sale or distribution of an original literary, musical, dramatic or artistic work.
CRIME: When you break the law either by doing something the law says you are not to do or by not doing something the law says you have to do.
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS: Crimes that directly injure, attempt to injure or threaten to injure a person’s body.
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY: Crimes that affect property.
CRIMINAL GANG: A group of individuals who have a common name or identifying symbol and customs, and commonly engage in criminal activity punishable as a felony.
CRIMINAL INFRINGEMENT OF A COPYRIGHT: The crime of duplicating copyrighted material without the consent of the owner that is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to $50,000.
CRIMINAL LAW: Term used to describe laws that relate to the way you interact with society as a whole; laws enacted by the legislative branch of government for the purpose of preventing harm to society and establishing punishment to be imposed for wrongful conduct.
CRIMINAL TRESPASS: Entering someone else’s property, vehicle or home without permission or remaining there against the owner’s wishes.
CURFEW: A time set by a city or county when a minor is no longer allowed to be out on the street without lawful business.
CUSTODY: The care and control of a thing or person.
CYBER BULLYING: The use of technology (e-mail, instant messaging, Web sites, cell phones, etc.) to harass or threaten another person. Cyber bullying is a form of harassment.
DATE RAPE DRUG: A drug used by an offender to make another person unconscious for the purpose of committing a crime such as sexual assault or another sexual offense.
DEADLY WEAPON: Any weapon, device, instrument, material or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used, is capable of causing substantial bodily harm or death.
DEFAMATION: A written or spoken false statement that damages the reputation or good name of a person.
DEFENDANT: The party against whom a civil lawsuit or criminal charge is brought.
DEFENDANTS ATTORNEY: An attorney who represents a party being sued in civil court.
DEFENSE ATTORNEY: An attorney responsible for representing the accused in criminal court.
DEGREE: Legal extent of guilt or negligence.
DELINQUENT ACT: An act committed by a juvenile that violates a county or municipal ordinance, is a criminal offense under state law, or violates any rule or regulation having the force of law.
DESECRATION: To knowingly deface, damage or physically mistreat an American flag in a public place.
DETENTION FACILITY: A place for temporarily keeping juveniles who have been accused of committing delinquent acts.
DISAFFIRM: To call off a contract.
DISTRICT COURTS: Nevada trial courts that are divided into nine judicial districts.
DIVISION OF CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES: The governmental agency in Nevada charged with the supervision and treatment of juveniles.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: When a family or household member attempts to cause or causes bodily injury to another family or household member or attempts to damage or damages their property.
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI): Driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs as determined by the amount of alcohol or drugs in that person’s blood.
DRUG DISTRIBUTION: Selling, furnishing, giving away, delivering or distributing any controlled substance, unless authorized by law.
DRUG MANUFACTURING: Manufacturing any controlled substance without legal authority or possessing any chemicals used to manufacture a controlled substance with the intent to manufacture the controlled substance.
DRUG PARAPHERNALIA: All equipment, products and materials of any kind that are intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing, producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance.
DRUG POSSESSION: Possessing a controlled substance without authorization.
DRUG TRAFFICKING: The possession of large quantities of illegal drugs, which indicates the intent to sell for profit.
DUE PROCESS OF LAW: The guarantee that citizens are treated fairly by the government (found in the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution).
EMANCIPATION: When a minor legally gains control and responsibility over all decisions in his or her life, even though he or she is a minor.
EMPLOYEE THEFT: A form of theft in which employees steal things, allow friends to steal things, charge a customer an improperly reduced price or abuse an employee discount.
EXECUTIVE BRANCH: The branch of government...
responsible for enforcing the laws.

**EXPULSION:** Disciplinary action for violation of a school rule that removes a student from school for an extended period of time.

**FALSE IMPRISONMENT:** Unlawfully keeping a person in a room, car or other place so he or she cannot leave or get out.

**FELONY:** Generally the most serious of all crimes and can result in being committed to a federal or state prison for more than one year.

**FIREARM:** Any device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile may be expelled through the barrel by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion.

**FRAUD:** Intentionally telling someone something false or concealing the truth.

**GAMING:** Also known as gambling. Gaming includes any game played with cards, dice, equipment or any mechanical, electromechanical or electronic device or machine for money, property, checks, credit or any representative of value, including faro, monte, roulette, keno, bingo, fan-tan, twenty-one, blackjack, seven-and-a-half, big injun, klondike, craps, poker, chuck-a-luck, Chinese chuck-a-luck (dai shu), wheel of fortune, chemin de fer, baccarat, pai gow, beat the banker, panguingui, slot machine, any banking or percentage game or any other game or device approved by the Nevada Gaming Commission.

**GOOD CAUSE:** Acts constituting grounds for suspension or expulsion.

**GROSS MISDEMEANORS:** Less serious crimes that cannot result in commitment to a state prison, but rather, to county jail for no more than one year, or a fine up to $2,000.

**HABITUAL TRUANT:** A student who has three or more unexcused absences in a school year.

**HALLUCINOGENS:** Substances that affect the central nervous system distorting the perception of reality.

**HARASSMENT:** A threat to another person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or threats to cause physical damage to the property of another person.

**HEARING:** A court appearance before a judge where testimony is given and evidence is presented.

**HOMICIDE:** The killing of one human being by another, justified or unjustified.

**IDENTITY THEFT:** Using someone else’s information (such as social security numbers, credit card numbers, and drivers’ licenses) without their permission for an unlawful purpose.

**INDECENT EXPOSURE:** When a person makes any open and indecent or obscene exposure of his or her person, or of another person.

**INHALANTS:** Substances that are sniffed or “huffed” to give the user an immediate high or head rush.

**INTENT:** A state of mind in which a person seeks to achieve a given result through a course of action.

**INTENTIONAL TORT:** When a person intentionally harms someone or someone’s property.

**INVASION OF PRIVACY:** Intentional and wrongful intrusion into someone’s private activities in such a manner as to cause shame or humiliation.

**JUDGE:** The court official that oversees courtroom proceedings, listens to testimony presented in cases brought before the court and rules according to the law.

**JUDICIAL BRANCH:** The branch of government that interprets the laws and their constitutionality.

**JURY:** A group of randomly chosen citizens (six to 12 in Nevada District Court and six to 12 in federal court depending on whether it is a civil or criminal case) that determine the facts of a case and apply the law in an adult court proceeding as instructed by the judge.

**JUVENILE:** A person not yet considered an adult for the purposes of determining either criminal or civil liability (generally anyone under the age of 18).

**JUVENILE COURT:** A special division of the district courts of Nevada that handles matters involving juveniles.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM:** A unique part of the criminal justice system that focuses on the problems, special concerns and delinquent activities of juveniles.

**JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICER (JPO):** An officer who supervises and monitors a person during his or her probation to ensure completion of probation conditions.

**LAW:** Rules and regulations created and enforced by the government.

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH:** The branch of government that creates laws.

**LIABILITY/LIABLE:** Legally responsible.

**LIBEL:** A written false statement that harm’s someone’s reputation.

**LITTERING:** Dumping, throwing or leaving any garbage or trash on any public street, in any public park or recreational area, or on public or private property.

**LOITERING:** Remaining in a certain place without lawful business.
MALICIOUS MISCHIEF: Willfully and maliciously destroying or injuring any real or personal property of another.

MINOR: A person under the age of 18.

MIRANDA WARNINGS: Constitutional rights read to a person accused of a crime before questioning begins.

MISDEMEANORS: The least serious offenses that cannot result in commitment to county or city jail for more than six months or a fine of no more than $1,000.

MOTOR VEHICLE: A vehicle that runs on its own power.

MURDER: The intentional, unlawful killing of a human being.

MURDER OF THE FIRST DEGREE: Murder that is willful, deliberate and premeditated. This includes murder committed during the act of another crime such as child abuse, kidnapping, arson, burglary or terrorism, or on the property of a public or private school.

MURDER OF THE SECOND DEGREE: All murders not considered murder of the first degree.

NARCOTICS: Addictive drugs, such as opium and cocaine, that reduce pain, alter mood and behavior, and usually induce sleep.

NEGligence: An unintentional tort that occurs when a person fails to use reasonable care causing harm to a person or his or her property.

NEVADA REVISED STATUTES: A collection of all the laws passed by our state legislature and approved by our governor.

NO ELECTRONIC THEFT ACT: Passed into law in 1997, NET allows for criminal enforcement of U.S. copyright laws against people who have no profit motive.

OBSENtY: Any material or performance that an average person in the community would find, taken as a whole, has an inappropriate concern with sexual matters, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value, and depicts or describes sexual acts.

OPEN OR GROSS LEWDNESS: Exposing one’s own or another’s private parts or engaging in sexual activity either in public or in any context that would offend other people.

OPEN MEETING LAW: A law that requires all public officials to conduct their meetings openly.

PEDESTRIAN: A person who is walking.

PERJURY: Intentionally providing false information under oath.

PETITION: To file charges or to make a request of a court or public official.

PHISHING: Sending e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be a legitimate organization, such as a bank, eBay account or Internet service provider, asking for the user’s password, social security number, bank account numbers and credit card accounts. This information is then used for the purposes of identity theft.

PLAGIARISM: The copying of someone else’s work and representing it as your own.

PLAINTIFF: The party who brings an action (a complaint or lawsuit) against the defendant in a civil case.

PLAINTIFF’S ATTORNEY: The attorney who represents a party making a complaint in civil court.

POSSSESSION: Possession is not limited to ownership. It can also include knowingly being in the presence of or having control over an area containing illegal items.

PRECEDENTS: Court decisions that serve as a guide on legal questions in future similar cases.

PROBATION: A period of supervised release given by a court instead of, or upon release from, detention.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY: An attorney who represents the government in a criminal case.

REASONABLE DOUBT: The standard that must be met by the prosecution in a criminal case to overcome the belief that a person is innocent until proven guilty. A reasonable doubt is doubt that would cause a reasonable person to hesitate before acting in a matter of importance. It does not mean an absolute certainty.

REASONABLE PERSON: The idealized standard of how society expects its members to act.

REASONABLE SUSPICION: An objective basis, supported by specific facts, for suspecting a person of criminal activity.

RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY: Buying or accepting of property known to be or suspected to be, stolen.

RESTITUTION: The return of goods to the rightful owner and payment for property loss, damages and time.

ROBBERY: Theft by the use of force; taking a person’s personal property by using force or by scaring someone into handing over anything that belongs to him or her.

RULE OF LAW: The principle that everyone, including government officials, must respect and obey the legal system and its laws.
SCHOOL FUNCTION: Anything sponsored and controlled by school officials even if the event is held off school property.
SCHOOL GROUNDS: Areas defined as part of a school campus including the main campus, auditoriums, sporting arenas, football and baseball fields, tracks, vocational facilities and the cafeteria.
SCHOOL POLICE OFFICER: A full-time law enforcement officer in the schools with the goal of creating a safe, secure and nurturing learning environment.
SEDATIVES: Substances that depress or slow down the body’s functions inducing sleep or sedation.
SHOPLIFTING: Type of theft that involves the taking of merchandise from a store without paying or intending to pay.
SLANDER: A spoken false statement that harms someone’s reputation.
SOFTWARE PIRACY: The unauthorized duplication of computer software. Copying software is an act of copyright infringement, and is subject to civil and criminal penalties.
SPAM: Unsolicited, bulk e-mail also known as electronic junk mail.
STATUS OFFENDER: A juvenile who has committed an offense that would not be criminal if committed by an adult.
STATUTE: A law enacted by the legislature at the federal or local levels.
STATUTORY SEXUAL SEDUCTION: Sexual penetration by a person 18 years of age or older with a person under the age of 16 years.
STIMULANTS: Substances that temporarily increase the function of the heart, lungs, brain and nervous system.
SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA: Nevada’s highest appellate court.
SUSPENSION: Disciplinary action for misconduct that temporarily removes a student from school or class.
TEEN COURT: A pre-trial diversion program of the juvenile court that allows juveniles charged with a delinquent act the option of facing their peers for punishment, instead of going to juvenile court.
TERRORISM: Any violent criminal act committed with the intent of causing death or injury to the public, or substantial destruction, contamination or damage to any buildings, transportation or communication systems, water and power lines, or natural resources.
THEFT: The taking of property or depriving someone of his or her property without the intent to return it.
TOBACCO: An agricultural crop usually rolled in paper and smoked. Sometimes tobacco leaves are “dipped” or “chewed” so the nicotine is absorbed via the gums.
TORTS: The law of private wrongs, governing the behavior of persons and setting out their obligations toward each other.
TRESPASS: Intentionally going onto property that you do not own or have the right to be on, including fishing or hunting on the property or throwing things onto the property.
TRIAL: A formal proceeding before a judge and/or jury to determine the outcome of an issue before the court.
TRUANCY: Absence of a student from school without permission.
UNITED STATES CODE (U.S. CODE): A collection of all the laws passed by the U.S. Congress and approved by the President.
U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS: Intermediate federal appellate courts that review decisions of lower federal courts.
U.S. COPYRIGHT ACT: Law passed by the U.S. Congress that provides for the basic rights of copyright holders.
U.S. SUPREME COURT: The highest court in the country created by the U.S. Constitution. This court of final appeals reviews decisions from lower federal courts and state and territorial supreme courts.
WITNESS: A person who testifies to what he or she has seen, heard or otherwise observed.
WORK PERMIT: A permit that allows a minor to work outside school hours or during vacation periods.
Your Turn

Why do we have rules and laws?

What rules apply to my family? What are the reasons for them?

What rules apply to me? What are the reasons for them?

It really bothers me when people break ___________________________ (rules), because:

What would life be like if we didn’t have rules and laws?
List five laws that make your life safer.

List your least favorite laws and explain why.

What new law would you like the legislature to pass?

What have you learned from *Play by the Rules*?

What is your favorite illustration in this book?
IMPORTANT NUMBERS & WEB SITES

911 is for emergencies only

POLICE___________________________________________

FIRE______________________________________________

AMBULANCE________________________________________

LOCAL CRISIS CENTER______________________________

FAMILY PHYSICIAN_________________________________

ANIMAL CONTROL_________________________________

ALCOHOL & SUBSTANCE ABUSE HELPLINE
1-800-662-HELP

INTERNET SAFETY
www.isafe.org
www.usdoj.gov/kidspage

POISON CONTROL
1-800-222-1222
www.fasthealth.com

NEVADA SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE
1-877-885-4673
1-800-784-2433
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