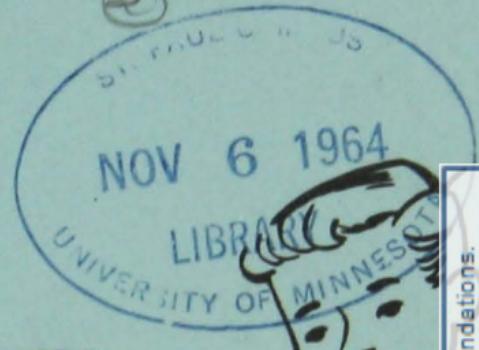


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Minnesota Teen-Age Code

How The Teen-Age Code Was Developed

This suggested Teen-Age Code was developed through the cooperation of the Governor's Youth Council and the Governor's Advisory Council on Children and Youth. The original draft was prepared by youth themselves at the Governor's Conference held in May 1956. It was then forwarded to youth throughout the entire state who were given the opportunity to discuss it and revise the original. This second draft was then studied by the Governor's Advisory Council and a final draft prepared. It is estimated that over 600 youth and 300 adults have participated in the preparation of this Code.

The Minnesota Teen-Age Code is a set of guiding principles developed to help achieve cooperation among parents and students for a safe and acceptable program of social activities for young people. It is based on parent and student surveys here and elsewhere and is issued by the Governor's Youth Council and the Governor's Advisory Council on Children and Youth.

It is imperative that groups of parents and teenagers work out these agreements for themselves. The Teen-Age Code, rather than substituting for family-made rules, should stimulate discussion on these issues and be a springboard from which family agreements may be reached.

The Code is intended to be a basis for determining acceptable conduct regarding: (1) parties; (2) use of the car; (3) suitable hours; (4) appropriate dress; (5) the problems of party crashing; (6) proper respect for rights and property of others; (7) smoking by teen-agers; (8) drinking of alcoholic beverages by teen-agers.

As young people mature, they desire more freedom. They usually welcome direction, but they resent arbitrary orders. Because of group pressures, young people are often placed in difficult situations. They want and need the understanding support of their parents.

Many parents need fortification to combat the pressure, exerted by the plea of their young people that "*Everybody Does It.*" Also, teen-agers need protection from adults who impose unreasonable standards. By setting up desirable and acceptable

standards of behavior in these ages, parents and young people can help to avoid later problems.

It is believed that this Code can serve its purpose best in those communities where it stimulates discussion and agreements. It should form the basis for working relationships between youth and adults, subject to periodic review and evaluation, and should help parents and children set up their own standards.

Minnesota Teen-Age Code

Junior High School

(Grades 7, 8, and 9)

BASIC RULE

Parents should know where their sons and daughters are while away from home, what they are doing, and with whom they are spending their time. Parents should also know what time their young people return home.

PARENT-YOUTH PLANNING

- A** An allowance should be planned together, based on a discussion of financial ability, needs and management of money.
- B** Family plans should be organized so that: (1) necessary transportation for all members of the family can be provided; and (2) individual members can be reached in case of emergency or change of plans.

HOME ENTERTAINING

The home should be the center of young people's social activity. To accomplish this, the cooperation and support of parents is needed. Young people should be encouraged to bring friends into the home and to accept invitations to the homes of friends. Parents should welcome the opportunity to meet their sons' or daughters' companions and friends.

- A** Social activities in this age group should be limited to weekends and holidays. It is important that invitations be clear as to type of function (for appropriate dress), the time of beginning

and ending of a party. It is the responsibility of the guests to leave at the designated time.

- B** It is important that a parent or responsible adult be home and on call at all times when young people entertain.
- C** Young people and their parents feel more comfortable if some plans for entertainment have been made in advance. Boredom and confusion lead to undesirable results. Well laid plans for a party are disregarded only by a rude guest. A considerate guest will follow the plans of the host.
- D** Party crashing is an inexcusable custom and presents a problem for the host and other guests. Crashers should not be admitted.
- E** "Lights out" has no place in a well-ordered party.
- F** Parents should be sure that transportation is provided for young people at the designated time of return.

GENERAL DATING

- A** Some eighth and ninth graders "date" in addition to parties and dances. The home should be offered and encouraged as a possible place for dating. Parents should cooperate by providing an agreeable measure of privacy. Public entertainment puts a strain on a teen-ager's allowance.
- B** Dressing according to the occasion makes a person feel more comfortable.
- C** Young people and their parents should agree in advance on a definite time for return from a date. A boy should be given an opportunity to meet the parents of the girl and to discuss expected time of arrival at home.
- D** Group, or double dating, rather than single dating, is to be encouraged. Parents can assist in making this attractive to young people by helping to arrange for trips to places of recreation or entertainment.
- E** "Going steady" at this age should be discouraged. Young people profit by a variety of contacts.

SCHOOL DANCES

- A** Transportation should be provided by parents. This can be a shared responsibility.
- B** Plans should include dances that provide for an exchange of partners.

- C** Parties after dances seem neither necessary nor wise in this age group.

HOURS

If boys and girls of ninth grade walk home from an early function, a definite time should be set for arrival at home. The following are suggested hours for the termination of functions:

	GRADES		
	7th	8th	9th
Formals		11:30	12:00
Informals	10:00	10:30	11:00
Home parties	10:00	11:00	11:00
General dating		10:30	11:00

Inasmuch as formal dances are infrequent in this age group, midnight is considered a reasonable hour, provided that boys and girls are transported directly home.

DRIVING

Ordinarily young people are not eligible to drive at this age. It is illegal for a parent to permit his or her son or daughter to drive on a public highway when such young person is under the age of 15. If such young person is older, he or she cannot drive, even with a parent in the automobile, unless he or she has a driver's license or a learner's permit. A licensed driver must accompany a person with a learner's permit.

DRINKING

This ordinarily is not a problem at this age. Circumstances sometimes arise, where it becomes one, particularly when eighth and ninth grade girls "date" senior high-school boys. The dangers under these circumstances are apparent.

Minnesota State Law prohibits sale of liquor or 3.2 beer to minors (under twenty-one years of age), and forbids serving it to them, or consumption by them.

SMOKING

Minnesota State Law prohibits sale of cigarettes and tobacco to persons under 18 years of age, and prohibits such persons from smoking except in their own homes with their parents' consent.

Minnesota Teen-Age Code

Senior High School

(Grades 10, 11, and 12)

BASIC RULE

Parents should know where their sons and daughters are while away from home, what they are doing, and with whom they are spending their time. Parents should also know what time their young people return home.

PARENT-YOUTH PLANNING

- A** An allowance should be planned together, based on a discussion of financial ability, needs, and the management of money.
- B** Family plans should be organized so that: (1) necessary transportation for all members of the family can be provided; and, (2) individual members can be reached in case of emergency or change of plans.

HOME ENTERTAINING

The home should be the center of young people's social activity. To accomplish this, the cooperation and support of parents is needed. Young people should be encouraged to bring friends into the home and to accept the invitations to visit the homes of friends. Parents should welcome the opportunity to meet their sons' or daughters' companions and friends.

- A** It is important that invitations be clear as to type of function (for appropriate dress), the time of beginning, and ending of a party. It is the responsibility of the guests to leave at the designated time.
- B** It is important that a parent or responsible adult be at home and on call at all times when young people entertain but should provide an agreeable measure of privacy.
- C** Young people and their parents feel more comfortable if some plans for entertainment have been made in advance. Boredom and confusion lead to undesirable results. Well laid plans for a party are disregarded only by a rude guest.

A considerate guest will follow the plans of the host.

- D** Party crashing is an inexcusable custom and presents a problem for the host and other guests. Crashers should not be admitted.
- E** "Lights out" has no place in a well-ordered party.

GENERAL DATING

- A** The home should be offered and encouraged as a possible place for dating. Parents should co-operate by providing an agreeable measure of privacy. Public entertainment puts a strain on teen-agers' allowances.
- B** Dressing according to the occasion makes a person feel more comfortable.
- C** Young people and their parents should agree in advance on a definite time for return from a date. A boy should be given an opportunity to meet the parents of the girl and to discuss expected time of arrival at home.

HOURS

In deciding on a satisfactory hour for a young person's expected arrival at home from a social engagement, two factors have to be considered: (1) *What time will the affair be over?* (2) *What is a reasonable amount of time to allow for arrival home following the affair?*

- 1** *What time will the affair be over?* The following is a suggested guide for:

- a** Non-school nights:

GRADES

	10th	11th	12th
Formals	11:00 12:00	12:00 1:00	12:00 1:00
Informals	11:00 11:30	11:00 12:00	11:00 12:00
Home parties	11:30	12:00	12:00
General dating	11:30	12:00	12:00

- b** School nights:

10:00 except for special events, such as school, church or other recognized activities.

2 *What is a reasonable amount of time to allow for arrival at home?* (If transportation is provided by parents, this is no problem.)

- a** An invitation issued for refreshments following a dance or other late social function should include a definite time for beginning and ending. One hour would seem adequate for an occasion of this type but is subject to regional conditions.
- b** Young people should come directly home from a function unless other plans have been approved by parents. *If a young person is delayed for any reason, he should telephone home.*
- c** Parents should know when young people arrive home.

DRIVING

- A** Parental consent for the driving privilege should be based on: (1) Possession of a driver's license; (2) young people's proof of ability to control themselves and the car; (3) a healthy attitude regarding the rights and welfare of others.
- B** Because it affects the lives and property of others, teen-agers should be allowed to drive a motor vehicle *only* with a license (or permit) issued by the Drivers' License Division of the State of Minnesota. A licensed driver must accompany the teen-agers driving with a permit. State law prohibits anyone from allowing another to drive a motor vehicle without a driver's license.
- C** *Trained instruction is urged.* Careful driving, as well as good driving attitudes, can save lives and secure the economic welfare of an entire family.
- D** It is the duty of parents and youth to make certain that any car driven by young people is in safe operating condition.
- E** Young drivers should be expected to assume their portion of responsibility for the maintenance and appearance of the shared car.
- F** Parents should be firm in their decision to take away the car privilege when it is abused. On the other hand, they should be generous in their praise of proper driving attitudes and careful handling of the car.

- G** Young people should understand that over-crowding of a car is dangerous.
- H** Riders have a share in the responsibility for safe driving. Dares and jeers from riders have been responsible for more than one death.
- I** Young people should understand that it is wise to refuse to ride with a reckless driver. Call your parents, or call a cab.

DRINKING

Drinking among high school students presents a serious problem in which parents and youth must consider their responsibilities. Young people confirm that a number of parents serve alcoholic beverages (beer, wine and whiskey) to young guests in their homes. It is well known that alcoholic beverages are brought to parties by guests, and are served by the guests themselves.

- A** No one has the moral or legal right to serve any alcoholic beverages to other people's children. The adult who does so may be charged criminally and is directly responsible for any of the serious consequences which may result.
- B** Minnesota State Law prohibits sale of liquor or 3.2 beer to minors (under 21 years of age) and forbids serving it to them and consumption by them.
- C** Parents should impound any alcoholic beverage which is brought to a party and notify the parents of the offender. No alcoholic beverages should be accessible to young guests.
- D** Young people should understand that it is not a disgrace to decline an alcoholic drink.
- E** Young people should understand that it is foolhardy to ride with a driver who is under the influence of alcohol, and should instead seek safer means of transportation.

SMOKING

- A** Minnesota State Law prohibits sale of cigarettes and tobacco to persons under 18 years of age and prohibits such persons from smoking except in their home with their parents' consent.

Suggested Ordinance

This "model" Curfew Ordinance was first created by the Youth Conservation Commission Prevention Division in 1952. It was adopted by the 1952 Governor's Youth Conference. An extension of the age coverage to eighteen resulted from recommendations made by the Minneapolis Police Department Crime Prevention Bureau and other civic agencies.

"Regulating the presence of minors under the age of 18 years on the streets or in public places between certain hours and defining the duties of parents and others in the care of minors, providing for arrest and penalties for violation thereof, and repealing an ordinance entitled 'An ordinance regulating the presence of minors under the age of 16 years on the streets or in public places between certain hours and defining duties of the parents and others in the care of minors and providing for arrest and penalties for violation thereof,' passed . . . approved as amended."

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF _____

DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 14 years to be on or present in any public street, avenue, alley, park or other public place in the City of _____ between the hours of 9:30 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. of the following day, official city time, unless accompanied by his or her parent or guardian, or person having lawful custody and control of his or her person, or unless there exists a reasonable necessity therefor. The fact that said child, unaccompanied by parent, guardian, or other person having legal custody, is found upon any street, alley or public place after 9:30 P.M. or before 5:00 A.M. of the following day, shall be *prima facie* evidence that said child is there unlawfully and that no reasonable excuse exists therefore.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 18 years and over the age of 14 years to loiter, loaf or idle on or about any public street, avenue, alley, park or other place in the City of _____ between the hours of 9:30 P.M. and 5:00 A.M. of the following day, official city time.

Section 3. It shall be unlawful for any parent, guardian or other person having the lawful care, custody or control of any person under the age of 18 years to allow or permit such person to violate the provisions of Section 1 and 2.

Section 4. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation operating or in charge of any place of amusement, entertainment or refreshment, or other place of business, to permit any minor under the age of 18 years to loiter, loaf or idle in such place during the hours prohibited by this ordinance.

This ordinance shall not be construed as permitting the presence at any time of any person under the age of 18 years in any place where his presence is now prohibited by any existing law or ordinance.

Whenever the owner or person in charge or in control of any place of amusement, entertainment, refreshment, or other place of business shall find persons under the age of 18 years loitering, loafing or idling in such place of business, he shall immediately order such person to leave, and if such person refuses to leave the said place of business, the operator shall immediately notify the police department and inform them of the violation.

Section 5. Any member of the police force is authorized to arrest, with or without warrant, any person or persons violating the provisions of Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this ordinance, and any child unaccompanied by parent, guardian or other adult person having the lawful care and custody of said minor child.

Section 6. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$100.00 or by imprisonment in the Workhouse of said city for a period not exceeding ninety days.

Section 7. An ordinance entitled, "An ordinance regulating the presence of minors under the age of 16 years on the streets or in public places between certain hours ,and defining duties of parents and others in the care of minors, and providing for arrest and penalties for violation thereof," passed _____ approved _____, as amended, be and the same is hereby repealed.

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