

Is A Young Person You Love In Trouble With Alcohol Or Drugs?

EDITOR'S NOTE: My family has gone through the insanity of drug abuse and risen above it with the help of God and Straight, Inc. When we put our daughter (age 16) in Straight she was failing school and our family was out of control. She is back in school with a straight "A" average and our family is a solid loving and supporting unit. If you, a relative or friend thinks they may have a drug and/or alcohol problem and would like someone to talk with, please do not hesitate to call me, Dan Jones.

BEHAVIOR

- Does your child go through frequent or extreme mood swings?
- Have you noticed a change in your child's friends?
- Has your child lied or do you suspect lying?
- Has your child been involved in acts of vandalism?
- Has there been evidence of other people in the home when you have been out?
- Have you noticed objects missing from your home? (money, silver, jewelry, liquor, etc.)
- Has your child used obscene language or gestures?
- Does your child seem withdrawn or prefer the seclusion of his/her room?
- Does your child demand that no one enter his room, or at least without permission?
- Does your child prefer to keep his room dark?
- Have there been sudden or explosive outbursts of anger?
- Does your child suffer from memory loss or disorientation?
- Are you aware of or do you suspect sexual activity with opposite sex or same sex?
- Have you ever discovered drugs or paraphernalia left out where they could be easily found?
- Has your child ever run away or threatened to?
- Has your child dropped out of favorite activities or sports?

- Has your child been charged with an auto accident or reckless/drunk driving.
- Has your child been involved in other court/legal matters?

APPEARANCE - HEALTH

- Does your child neglect personal appearance/hygiene?
- Have you noticed bruises on skin?
- Is your child's coloration pale, flushed, or blotchy?
- Have you noticed a constant or persistent cough?
- Have you seen your child with dilated pupils?
- Have you noticed that your child is going long periods without eating or sleeping?
- Has your child lost weight?
- Does your child appear hyperactive or nervous?
- Have you detected odor of pot or alcohol on your child?
- Have you seen your child staggering, stumbling, or disoriented but does not have any odor of alcohol on breath?

FAMILY

- Does your child attempt to withdraw from family functions?
- Has there been verbal abuse within the family?
- Has there been physical abuse within the family?

ACADEMIC

- Are you aware if your child has been:
 - a. Sleeping in class?
 - b. Skipping classes?
 - c. Cheating on tests, etc.?
- Does your child want to quit school?
- Have you received scholarship warnings or failing grades?
- Has your child been in trouble at school this year?

For more information on what to look for, call Straight, St. Petersburg 813-577-6011, for an information packet. ■