

Teenage Years 101: Teenager's Meeting Summary

Alcohol:

- Half of the cases that he sees involve alcohol in some way. If you avoid it, you are less likely to do something illegal.
- The only time that someone under 21 is allowed to possess alcohol is when you are at home and your parents give it to you.

Curfew:

- Cops don't want to mess with kids who break curfew, but they have to act when they are given a reason to respond.

Noise

- When you are at an intersection or going through a highly populated area, just turn it down. Otherwise, it's not that big of a deal.

Vandalism

- This is stupid, pointless, and selfish. Just don't do it. If you are caught, you will do tons of community service as a punishment.

Drugs

- Drugs are a serious problem, and a majority of teens have at least experimented with drugs.
- You have no reason to trust drug dealers. How do you really know what you are getting? How do you know your weed is not laced with meth?
- "Spice" / "K2" / "Salvia" and other newer drugs are illegal in Georgia.
- While at parties, watch your drinks carefully so someone doesn't slip "rophies" or other drugs into it.
- Getting caught taking someone else's prescription drugs carries the same punishment as getting caught with cocaine.
- Never try meth. Period. Even trying it one time will mess you up.

Sex

- A very high percentage of people have an STD, but you would never know it because they don't tell you or they don't even know it. Abstinence helps to solve all the issues that come with having sex.
- No one under the age of 16 can legally consent to having sex. Even if the person is a willing participant, it is still illegal and the other person can get busted.
- Oral sex is not a safe compromise. It inevitably leads to something more, and you can still get STDs from it.

Technology

- When you post something to the web, you can never be absolutely certain that you can take it back, even if you think you deleted it. Other people may have saved it or downloaded it before you deleted it. Never write things like "I'll kill you!" to other people, even if it's a joke. Don't give parents and other adults a reason not to trust you because of what you put on Facebook. Nothing good will come from posting pictures of you holding a bag of weed.

Parents and Other Adults

- You need parents and adults in your life who have sense and can help you in tough situations that you get yourself into. Your friends will not and can not bail you out of jail. Don't neglect creating relationships with your parents and other adults.

Main Ideas:

- Be aware of your surroundings and know what is happening so that you know when it is time to leave.
- Guys need to watch out for the girls and take care of the ones who get out of control. Take a girl home who gets too drunk. She may hate you for it later, but at least you prevented something from happening to her.
- Don't give cops a stupid reason to pull you over. Be honest. If you are found out lying, it will be worse for you.

- Show respect to others, and don't be selfish.
- Don't post things on the internet that would give your parents and other adults reason not to trust you. Don't post things that would be embarrassing or may hinder you from getting a job later in life.
- Don't neglect creating relationships with your parents and other adults because you will need their help throughout your life.
- Character (what you do when no one else is around) is extremely important. Work on building it.
- Every decision that you make has consequences--whether good or bad. Learn to make decisions that lead to good consequences, even if they are tough.

**Disclaimer: This summary is simply the thoughts and opinions of Mike Fennema. Any errors or inconsistencies are my own. Any points regarding the law should be personally researched and verified.