

# ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PLAN

Possession of, sale, and/or being under the influence of alcohol or narcotic drugs (including marijuana) is a violation of Hillsborough County School Board policies and procedures (Section 3.14 and 6.2). Students found violating these policies are subject to withdrawal and referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Aparicio-Levy Technical College is committed to promoting a drug-free learning environment. Each student is required by federal law to comply with the terms of the statement below: It is the policy of Aparicio-Levy Technical College that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of illicit drugs and alcohol is prohibited on the College's property or as a part of its activities. These are zero-tolerance offenses. Multiple strategies have been put in place to reduce the illegal and high-risk use of alcohol and other drugs and its related consequences:

- providing literature and resourceful information
- banning alcohol and alcohol advertisement on campus
- banning illicit drugs and illicit drug advertisement on campus
- conducting early intervention
- providing treatment referrals
- assisting students with adopting a healthy mindset
- providing guidance and support from the Student Services Office
- educating faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders about substance abuse and involving them in prevention activities.

## **Health Risks Associated with the Use of Illicit Drugs and the Abuse of Alcohol**

Alcoholism is a complex, progressive disease that interferes with health, social and economic functioning. Untreated alcoholism results in physical incapacity, permanent mental damage and/or premature death. Alcohol is involved in one-third of all suicides, one-half of all traffic accidents and one-fourth of all other accidents, and is involved in over 50 percent of all arrests. Alcohol is the third leading cause of birth defects involving mental retardation. Use during pregnancy may cause spontaneous abortion, various birth defects or fetal alcohol syndrome. Drinking is implicated in cancer, heart disease, gastrointestinal disease and other illnesses. Alcoholism has been estimated to reduce life expectancy by twelve years.

Beverage alcohol can damage all body organs, leading to liver, heart and digestive problems, circulatory system interference, change in personality, reproductive problems and central nervous system disorders such as poor vision, loss of coordination, memory loss, loss of sensation, mental and physical disturbances and permanent brain damage. The physical and psychological changes that occur as a result of addiction to alcohol can pave the way for addiction to pharmacologically similar drugs.

The use of illicit drugs results in many of the health risks that are involved with alcohol use. Illicit drug use increases the risk of mental deterioration, death from overdose, physical and mental dependence or addiction, hepatitis and skin infections from needle use, psychotic reactions, inducement to take stronger drugs, brain damage, danger of flashback phenomenon, hallucinations, unconsciousness, deep

depression, distortion of time and space, permanent damage to lungs, brain, kidneys and liver, death from suffocation or choking, anemia, amnesia, AIDS and other infections. If used excessively, the use of alcohol and drugs singly or in certain combinations may cause death.

### **Criminal Sanctions**

Under Florida and federal law, it is a crime to possess, manufacture, sell, or distribute illegal drugs. Possession sentences range from up to one-year imprisonment and \$1,000 fine to 20 years' imprisonment and fines up to \$250,000. Forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance can be a sanction for convictions. Sanctions can also include denial of federal benefits, such as student loans and grants [21 U.S.C. sec. 853]. Moreover, any person convicted of a federal drug offense punishable by more than one year in prison will forfeit personal and real property related to the violation, including homes, vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other personal belongings [21 U.S.C. sec. 853(a)(2), 881(a)(7) and 881(a)(4)].

### **Florida Drug Possession Statute Section 893.13.**

Florida state laws set a range of punishments for drug offenses. The potential punishment for a drug possession charge depends on the type of controlled substance, the type of charge, and the degree of the misdemeanor or felony. The sentence for a misdemeanor conviction depends on the degree of the charge. A second degree misdemeanor may lead to a sentence of imprisonment for up to sixty days, while a first degree misdemeanor can result in a sentence of up to one year.

Florida state laws also require an increased sentence if the defendant has a violent criminal history with prior felony convictions; the state refers to these defendants as "career criminals" and "habitual felony offenders." While the court cannot require an enhanced sentence when the current conviction is for drug possession, a felony conviction in the current case could affect future sentencing if the defendant faces additional charges.

Under Florida law, the legal age for drinking and serving alcohol is 21. Underage possession of alcohol is a second degree misdemeanor in Florida and carries the potential punishment of imprisonment up to sixty days in jail for the first offense [Florida Statute 562.111(1)]. Florida law authorizes imprisonment for this "criminal" offense, if one is found guilty of Underage Possession of Alcohol, the court is required to revoke one's driver's license for a minimum of six months. The court also has the authority to increase this suspension to 12 months [Florida Statute 562.111(3)]. Second and subsequent offenses result in the crime of underage possession of alcohol being classified as a first degree misdemeanor which can result in a maximum penalty of twelve months in jail. If found guilty of underage possession of alcohol with a prior conviction, the court is required to revoke one's driver's license for two years.

### **Available Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Programs**

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tri-County Central Office, Inc.  
8019 N. Himes, Suite 104  
Tampa, FL 33614  
(813) 933-9123  
[www.aatampa-area.org](http://www.aatampa-area.org)

Crisis Center of Tampa Bay  
One Crisis Center Plaza  
Tampa, Florida 33613-1238  
(813) 964-1964 or Dial 2-1-1  
[www.crisiscenter.com](http://www.crisiscenter.com)

Sanchez Full Service Center  
2100 E 26th Ave, Tampa, FL 33605  
(813) 272-0673

DACCO Center for Behavioral Health  
4422 E Columbus Drive, Tampa, FL (main facility)  
(813) 384-4000, or after 5:00 M-F: 1-855-322-2600  
[www.dacco.org](http://www.dacco.org)

Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance  
2815 E Henry Ave, Suite B-1, Tampa FL 33610  
(813)238-4034  
[www.hcada.com](http://www.hcada.com)

StopRx Drug Abuse  
Drop Boxes located at several HCSO locations,  
Including 2310 N. Falkenberg Road, Tampa  
[www.stoprxdrugabuse.org](http://www.stoprxdrugabuse.org)

Detoxification  
Operation PAR, Inc.  
The Highpoint  
6150 150th Ave N, Clearwater, FL 33760  
(727) 507-4673  
[www.operationpar.org](http://www.operationpar.org)