

A Message from
Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



Dear Students,

We are pleased to visit schools throughout Suffolk County to speak with students about public safety and making the right decisions. This initiative is part of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's ongoing commitment to our neighborhoods. The choices you make now will affect your future. Please take a moment to read over this brochure and consider the consequences of your actions before it is too late.

Sincerely,
Sheriff Steven W. Tompkins



— Suffolk County —
Sheriff's Department



*Your choices have consequences.
Choose to NOT commit crime.*

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Think before you act...



Sexting is the term used for sending sexually explicit messages or photographs, primarily between cell phones or other similar electronic devices.



Bullying is characterized by repeated and intentional, unprovoked harassment of another individual in which that individual has difficulty defending him/herself.



Cyber-bullying is the use of the Internet and related technologies to harm other people, in a deliberate, repeated, and hostile manner. Like bullying, it is intentional and the individual has difficulty defending him/herself.



Peer Pressure is a form of pressure from one's peers with the intention of influencing behavior in a manner that is acceptable to them. While not all peer pressure is bad, negative peer pressure can lead one to make poor decisions that might result in illegal activity.



Guns and violence hurt not only the victims, but their families and the perpetrators, too. No life is worth losing or being spent behind bars.



Drug and alcohol use can lead to a variety of negative consequences which include: increased risk of serious drug use; school failure; poor judgment which may put teens at risk for accidents; violence; unplanned and unsafe sex; incarceration; and even suicide.

All of the above behaviors can be illegal and may result in arrest, legal charges, jail time and a C.O.R.I.

Criminal Offender Record Information (C.O.R.I.)

In 1972 Massachusetts created the Criminal Offender Record Information Act. A C.O.R.I. report provides information relating to an individual's arrest, indictment, warrants, bail hearings, arraignments, pretrial proceedings, sentencing, incarceration, rehabilitation or release.




Agencies that can obtain your C.O.R.I. report include housing authorities, landlords, DCF, DYS, DOR-Child Support Enforcement, nursing homes, Offices of Child Care Services, institutions of higher learning and over 6,000 other organizations certified to receive C.O.R.I. information.

A criminal record negatively affects your future.

- Once an individual has been arraigned, that individual has a record which will never disappear without a court order.
- Many people often find that past misdeeds block their paths to a productive future. Avoid this obstacle and make the right choices. Remember, your *Choices* have *Consequences*.



Keys to a bright future

-  **Self-esteem** is your overall opinion of yourself — how you honestly feel about your abilities and limitations. When you have healthy self-esteem, you feel good about yourself and see yourself as deserving of the respect of others. Positive self-esteem will lower your chances of being influenced by negative peer pressure.
-  **Become civically involved in your community.** Know your three branches of government: *Executive Branch* - Headed by the President; *Legislative Branch* - Headed by Congress, which includes the House of Representatives and the Senate; and the *Judicial Branch* - headed by the Supreme Court. Most importantly, remember to register and VOTE when you turn 18.
-  **Most of all, be responsible for yourself and your actions. Do the right thing;** some decisions are easy to make, others are more complicated. If you have doubts seek advice from a responsible adult and remember to *respect yourself*.