

## Drug Seizures & Forfeitures

In addition to the prosecution of criminal violations, the State's Attorney's Office is responsible for processing asset forfeiture requests. The forfeiture of property is a civil action which is separate from any criminal prosecution. The forfeiture of property does not depend on the outcome of the criminal charges.

According to Illinois law, law enforcement can seize or forfeiture any items which they reasonably believe have been used to transport, conceal, possess or facilitate the purchase or sale of a controlled substance. This means that your property may be subject to forfeiture if you or your child is caught with a felony amount of cannabis or any amount of illicit controlled substances, For example:

- You could lose your vehicle if the police locate illegal drugs or felony amounts of cannabis in the vehicle or on the person of the driver. It doesn't matter if the car is in your name or your child's.
- If law enforcement believes that you or your child has used your computer or phone to coordinate drug deals, they could seize it for forfeiture. In addition, anything of value purchased with proceeds of illegal drug activity could be subject to forfeiture.

Talk to your kids about what could happen if they are caught with drugs. Your child's coveted new cell phone could give them the extra incentive, or excuse, to avoid drugs.

## Resources

**Lake County Catholic Charities**  
(847) 782-4000

**Lake County State's Attorney**  
(847) 377-3000

**Lake County Health Department**  
(847) 377-8000

**Lake County Psychiatric Crisis Hotline**  
(847) 377-8088

**Illinois Department of Public Health**  
(800) 252-4343

**Northern Illinois Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse (NICASA)**  
(847) 546-6450, [www.nicasa.org](http://www.nicasa.org)

**US Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention**  
[www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov)

**Lake County After-School Coalition**  
[www.lakecountyafterschoolcoalition.org](http://www.lakecountyafterschoolcoalition.org)

**Boys & Girls Club of Lake County**  
[www.bgclc.com](http://www.bgclc.com)

**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
[www.bbbschgo.org](http://www.bbbschgo.org)

**YMCA of Lake County**  
[www.ymcakelakecounty.org](http://www.ymcakelakecounty.org)

**YMCA of Metro Chicago**  
[www.ymcachicago.org](http://www.ymcachicago.org)

**Illinois After-School Programs Directory**  
[www.illinoisafterschool.net](http://www.illinoisafterschool.net)

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## Important Information for Parents About Drug Trends and Laws

*Lake County State's Attorney's Office*

**(847) 377-3000**

**18 North County Street  
Waukegan, IL 60085**

**[www.lakecountyiil.gov/StatesAttorney](http://www.lakecountyiil.gov/StatesAttorney)**

## What Parents Can Do

According to Drugfree.org, kids who learn a lot about the risks of drugs and alcohol from their parents are up to 50% less likely to use than those who do not. It is important for parents to get involved in drug abuse prevention programs in your community. A parent and child participating together can make a difference.

The following suggestions are provided by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention:

- Spend time with your child; take part in his/her activities.
- Be a positive role model.
- Know your child's friends and their families.
- Promote good study habits.
- Teach your child how to cope with peer pressure.
- Help your child develop good conflict resolution skills.
- Encourage your child to join positive afterschool activities with adult supervision.
- Work with neighbors to create a neighborhood alliance.
- Always be alert for unusual actions and activities involving your child.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions and even search their room should you suspect drug activity.
- If your child stays at a friend's house overnight, verify it with the parents.

## Prescription and OTC Drug Abuse

Prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse is the leading cause of substance-related deaths in Lake County. *In 2010, prescription drugs caused over 40% of the substance abuse deaths in Lake County.*

Prescription drug abuse is increasing because the drugs are available in most young people's homes or in relatives' homes, and young people usually get the drugs for "free" by stealing them. Prescription and over-the-counter drugs also seem safer than illegal drugs because doctors approve their use. *However, prescription drugs can be as harmful as illegal drugs when taken improperly.*

The signs of prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse vary according to which drugs are being abused, in what way, and in what combination.

### Prevention Tactics

- Keep track of *ALL* prescription and over-the-counter drugs, including non-narcotics. If your family rarely uses a certain drug that is running low, or you run out of a prescription early, find out who used the drugs.
- Limit access to all prescription and over-the-counter drugs at your house and family members' houses.
- If you have unused prescription drugs in your house, take them to safe disposal sites. Check with your police department or local clinics for locations.

## The Growing Threat of Heroin

Heroin is the fastest-growing cause of substance abuse deaths in Lake County. *Between 2007 and 2010, the amount of substance abuse deaths caused by heroin jumped from 16% to 37% in Lake County.* In 2010, 26% of substance abuse deaths were caused by heroin not mixed with other drugs.

Many young people believe heroin is not addictive, especially if they snort instead of inject, but heroin is *highly addictive.*

Heroin's increasing purity and decreasing price also attract new users, but the purity makes the drug even more addictive, and the price makes heroin more accessible to young people.

### Signs of Heroin Use

- Flushed skin.
- Dry mouth.
- Nausea.
- Vomiting.
- Severe itching.
- Clouded thinking.
- Depressed breathing.

Heroin overdoses can be fatal. Heroin can cause collapsed veins, infection of the heart linking and valves, and liver or kidney disease. Heroin often contains toxic additives or contaminants that can clog blood vessels leading to vital organs, causing permanent damage.

Users who inject heroin risk diseases including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis.

Chronic heroin use leads to physical dependence. Abruptly reducing or stopping heroin use may cause severe withdrawal, including restlessness, muscle and bone pain, insomnia, and vomiting.