

Drug-Free School Zones

Drug-Free School Zones were established by state law in November 1989. They were designed to establish safe areas in which to educate our children. Defining such zones establishes a clear method for communities and schools to combat the menace that is taking place in and around our school grounds.

Drug-Free School Zones ask that concerned citizens call when suspicious behavior is observed in the area. Law enforcement will be vigilant in these areas. By utilizing the statewide SAFE-CALL Help Line phone number (800) SAFE-CALL, ext. OK1, people in local businesses and neighborhoods can anonymously report suspicious activity without fear of reprisal. The schoolyard and surrounding area must remain a safe haven for our youth.

The law states it is unlawful for any person to distribute, dispense, or possess with intent to distribute, a controlled dangerous substance while on any property used for school purposes or within 2,000 feet of any school property. This includes a public or private elementary or secondary school, public vocational school, public or private college or university, or other institution of higher education, recreation center or public park (including state parks and recreation areas), or public housing project. The change became effective November 1, 1999.

Any person convicted shall be guilty of a felony and shall be sentenced to a prison term of not less than five years nor more than twenty years, and a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

Convictions for violations shall not be subject to statutory provisions for suspended sentences, deferred judgment, or probation:

In Oklahoma:

- It is unlawful to cause, aid, abet, or encourage a minor child to distribute drugs.
- Convictions for violations shall be guilty of a felony with punishment by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for a term of not more than twenty years and a fine of not more than two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000).
- When any court of record has determined that a person under the age of eighteen (18) years has committed an offense, the court shall notify the Department of Public Safety within twenty-four (24) hours in order to withdraw the driving privileges of that person.