
The Right Choice

Placer County Sheriff's Office
Loomis Union School District

Information Packet





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EDWARD N. BONNER
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DEVON BELL
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The Placer County Sheriff's Office will be offering a drug prevention program to 7th and 8th grade students of the Loomis Unified School District in the Spring of 2015. The Right Choice program is a modified version of the drug use deterrent program offered by the California Department of Justice since the mid-1990's.

The Right Choice is a drug use prevention and deterrence program that educates student participants on the full scope and consequences of legal and illegal drug usage. The program also offers the students skills to resist substance abuse.

The Right Choice is a realistic experience for middle school students who will witness one of their peers arrested on drug charges. The student to be arrested will be preselected and given a role to play by school staff and program administrators. The selected student's parents will also be requested to participate in the event. In summary, the student attendees will discover the incident is role-playing - with real sheriff's deputies, judges, probation officers, medical personnel, and the "defendant" being played by one of their classmates.

In the scenes, the child will be arrested, booked, prosecuted, placed on probation, overdose from drug use at a party, and ultimately pass away from the choice he or she made to accept taking drugs and the subsequent addiction. This is a hard hitting lesson showing the realities of making *the wrong choice* and accepting drug use.

The initial program offering will be held at the Loomis Grammar School in Spring of 2015. With full acceptance by all targeted schools this one event will reach approximately 600 students. Plans to continue offering the program throughout Placer County (Auburn and Lake Tahoe) are currently in progress.

History of The Right Choice: The California Department of Justice developed The Drug Store and has been successfully assisting local agencies in the production of this educational event since the mid 1990's. The feedback is tremendously positive from the students, faculty, and parents. In 2011, the Placer County Sheriff's Office along with the Department of Justice facilitated the event in Loomis. The title was changed to The Right Choice at that time. The feedback was overwhelmingly supportive and many teachers carried the event into further school assignments and discussions. Not only have illegal drugs become a reality in teen life, but prescription narcotics are also becoming the norm. The prescription narcotics are seen as "clean" doctor prescribed drugs and ultimately and very frequently end up as heroin addictions.

It is my hope the students will be educated of the possible consequences of making the WRONG choice in the split second they have when offered drugs.

Sincerely,

EDWARD N. BONNER, SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

Detective Ryan West
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