

AFS Rules and Regulations Regarding Drugs and Drug Association

Please refer to the *Rules and Regulations* (Pages 16-20) Section of your Welcome to the USA Handbook regarding AFS USA's policies with regards to AFS's policies on Drug Use and Association while here on your program. See attachments below (Page 16, 17).

Rules and Regulations

The Three AFS Rules

The following rules apply to every AFS participant hosted in the United States at all times:

No Drugs
No Driving
No Hitchhiking

If you are involved in any of these behaviors or break any other laws, you may have serious legal problems. These rules are not debatable. **If you break any of these rules, you will be returned to your home country immediately.**

Why does AFS terminate program participation for individuals who use or are involved with non-medicinal drugs?

It is AFS's responsibility to remove participants from situations that can hold possible criminal consequences or personal risk. AFS maintains this universal policy to ensure participants' health and safety.

What if I am not actually using drugs but I am with people who are doing so?

Program participation can be cancelled if you are in the company of individuals using drugs and drug equipment or who are involved in the transport or distribution of drugs.

Your safety is the primary concern of AFS. Drug enforcement laws can be extremely severe. **The police can arrest or detain an individual on suspicion of drug involvement simply by association or being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Possession or use of illegal drugs can result in arrest, jail time, and criminal charges necessitating court proceedings. In some cases, a participant's personal safety may also be at risk. If a participant is arrested, neither AFS nor the participant's country of citizenship or family can have much of an influence on the process, therefore, immediate return to the home country is in the participant's best interest.** To delay this action can put the participant at risk of being detained by the police and entering into the criminal justice system, from which it can be difficult to extradite the participant.

For the reasons above, we recommend that you find out about any events (concerts, parties, etc.) you are interested in attending ahead of time. Your host sibling, parents, friends, or teachers may be able to give you more information about the event and the people expected to attend. It is also important that you respect your host parents' advice regarding your participation in events, even if others you know are going.