ASAP is Cincinnati's premiere outpatient treatment center for teenagers and their families struggling with substance use.



Community Alert: Popular Local Shop Caught Selling Vapes to Teens

In recent years, the sale of vape products containing psychoactive substances to minors has emerged as a significant concern, particularly with the rise of unregulated compounds like delta-8 THC. This issue was brought into sharp focus by a recent <u>legal case involving a well-known local Smoke Shop in Maineville, Ohio</u>, where it was discovered that the shop knowingly sold these products to underage customers. Despite the alarming nature of these sales, legal loopholes along with these practices has allowed teens to access addictive substances while posing as a serious threat to their health and well-being.

Understanding the Legal Loophole and Intentional Sales

In June 2022, an undercover investigation by the Warren County Sheriff's Office revealed that a local "Smoke Shop" was not only selling vape products to minors but doing so knowingly. Employees were caught directing underage informants to products containing delta-8 THC, a compound derived from hemp that is not subject to the same regulations as its more potent counterpart, delta-9 THC. A shocking lack of regulation allows delta-8 to be sold without age restrictions, including to young children. This has resulted in exposure to children and teens to a

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mind-altering substance that can lead to addiction and health issues.

The owners of this "Smoke Shop" have faced legal action not just for the presence of delta-8, but because some products contained illegal levels of delta-9 THC. This situation illustrates the inability of our government to keep up with rapid pace of the vape shop industry, and shield our youth from potential dangers. This in combination with most shop's disregard for the law, emphasizes the urgent need for parental attention and legislative reform.

The Role of the Community in Protecting Teens

The responsibility of safeguarding teens from the dangers of vaping extends beyond legal frameworks. Parents, educators, and community leaders must remain vigilant and informed about the substances available to youth and monitor their teens for suspected problems. Open communication with teens about the risks associated with vaping and psychoactive substances is crucial in fostering a safer environment.

ASAP Cincinnati's Commitment to Helping Teens Quit Vaping

ASAP Cincinnati is dedicated to supporting teens working to quit vaping, other substances, or improve their overall mental health. ASAP's evidence-based treatment programs, including the TRIP intensive outpatient program and Clarity Intensive, offer comprehensive support for teens struggling with nicotine and THC addiction. These programs incorporate therapies like Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) to help teens develop healthier coping strategies.

Family involvement is central to our approach, ensuring that teens receive the necessary support both within our facility and at home. Our team of dedicated professionals is committed to guiding teens towards a healthier, substance-free lifestyle.

If you or someone you know is dealing with vaping addiction, ASAP Cincinnati is here to help. By working together, we can create a safer environment for our youth and empower them to make healthier choices.

For more information on how ASAP Cincinnati can assist in quitting vaping or improve your teens' mental health, please <u>contact us</u>. Let's join forces to protect our teens from the dangers of unregulated substances.

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