



STATE OF DELAWARE
Department of Safety & Homeland Security
DIVISION OF ALCOHOL & TOBACCO
ENFORCEMENT

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Greetings:

The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement is dedicated to enforcing Delaware's laws against the sales of tobacco/tobacco substitutes and alcoholic beverages to underage persons. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the Cooperating Underage Witness (CUW) Program that is conducted by the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement.

Studies have shown that some Delaware youth are trying tobacco and/or vaping products as well as alcohol while under the age of 21. This can lead to abuse of other substances and cause serious health problems. Other studies of Delaware youth reported that 1.8% of fifth graders, 13.8% of eighth graders and 19.7% of eleventh graders reported that they used tobacco and 42.6% have reported that they use electronic tobacco substitutes (vaping). Additionally, 10% of the males and 5.9% of the females surveyed reported that they have purchased tobacco products from a store clerk. Sadly, 6.3% have become regular, everyday smokers/vapers before graduating from High School. The report also indicated a direct link between tobacco product usage and the abuse of other substances, such as alcohol or marijuana. 6.4% of our youth have reported to have had their first alcoholic beverage by the age of 11.

The Division's CUW Program supports our efforts to control youth access to tobacco products and tobacco substitutes as well as alcoholic beverages, it would be futile without the support and participation from you, our CUW's. I doubt that there is a retailer who would say "Yes, I knowingly and willingly sell tobacco products and alcohol to minors". However, the facts are clear, some retailers are selling these products to our youth. As a result, the Division is committed to reducing youth access to tobacco products, tobacco substitutes and alcoholic beverages by its CUW Program.

I would like to thank you for your cooperation and support efforts to help reduce the sale of tobacco and alcohol to those who are under 21 years old. I believe together we can make a difference.

If you have any questions or concerns, please visit our website at www.date.delaware.gov or contact our office at (302) 741-2721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Yeomans".

John Yeomans
Chief of Police
Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement