

LawForKids.org

Description

Every kid in America has opportunities to break the law every day. In many instances, kids don't even know they are about to break the law. It is crucial that they know what the law means for them and understand that they are responsible for the decisions they make. LawForKids.org is America's first stand-alone Web site dedicated to teaching children about the law in a manner that kids can read quickly and understand easily. With more than 1.5 million hits on the Web site each year from across the nation and even internationally, there is now an avenue for kids who have questions, but are not comfortable enough to ask a counselor, police officer or attorney in their home community.

Access to LawForKids.org is free and available to South Carolina youth. There are quizzes, interactive games, cartoons, comics, law documents, searchable sections on South Carolina law and how it affects young people, as well as links for other law related education Web sites and sites for research and homework assistance. Perhaps most important to youth who visit LawForKids.org are the interactive forums in which young people may ask questions about the law and receive correct, factual information from volunteer lawyers. So often educating about the law is not only informative as to the actual content of the law, but also dispelling the myths that have become commonplace in society.

To access the site, visit www.lawforkids.org. Click "other states" in the top right corner of the home page, and then select South Carolina on the U.S. map. Users will then have the option of making the South Carolina site their permanent home page.

The S.C. Bar Law Related Education Division (LRE), with funding from the S.C. Bar Foundation's Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) grant program, is proud to partner with the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education in order to provide this valuable tool to young people in South



Carolina. This Web site is easily accessible by students and teachers, and posed questions are done so anonymously. Attorneys can volunteer with this program by participating on the forum and answering questions in their area of expertise.

Effectiveness

Though LawForKids.org is an anonymous program by which young people may avail themselves of correct and factual legal information, it does follow best practices in law related education. Many of these expected outcomes include:

- Students are less likely to resort to violent solutions to problems;
- Students are less likely to commit an offense, or to repeat an offense if they have had prior juvenile justice contact;
- Students have a better understanding for the reasons of the rules;
- Students have a greater respect for the justice system and the role of law in American society;
- Students are better able to make responsible choices about personal action; and
- Students show an overall improvement in behavior.

Incentives

- The S.C. Bar LRE Division has marketing materials available for schools to promote the LawForKids.org program. Posters, mouse pads and additional materials for use in the school setting are available upon request.
- School resource officers who coordinate promotion of the LawForKids.org program within their school can apply for the LRE Citizen of the Year Award, which comes with a \$1,000 recognition.
- Teachers who coordinate promotion of the LawForKids.org program within their school can apply for the LRE Teacher of the Year Award, which comes with a \$1,000 recognition.
- Schools that promote and utilize the LawForKids.org program can apply for the LRE School of the Year Award, which offers a \$5,000 award to be spent at the school's discretion.

For more information, contact
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