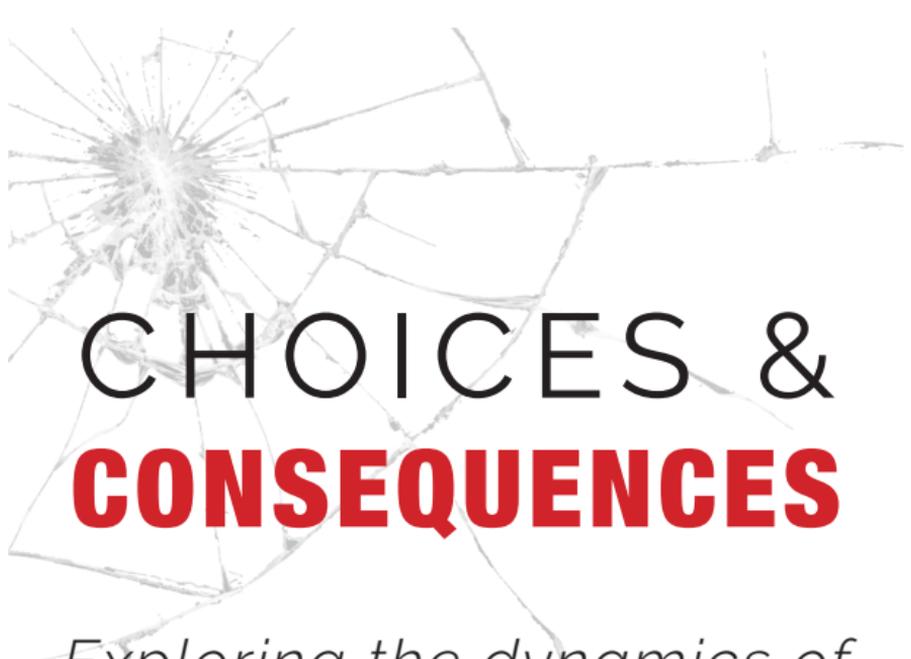


SUFFOLK COUNTY  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



TIMOTHY D. SINI  
*District Attorney, Suffolk County*



# CHOICES & **CONSEQUENCES**

*Exploring the dynamics of  
drunken, drugged &  
reckless driving*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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Dear Students, Parents and Teachers:

As you may know, motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for our young people between the ages of 15 and 24. And, as you likely suspect, the leading causes of motor vehicle fatalities among our young people are driving while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, distracted driving and reckless driving.

As Police Commissioner, I was committed to reducing the alarming rate of death and serious injury caused in motor vehicle crashes each year on Suffolk County roadways. During my two-year tenure as Police Commissioner, we reduced motor vehicle fatalities by approximately 30% by implementing a multipronged approach, which included, among other strategies, increased enforcement of our driving laws. But we all know that enforcement is only part of the solution. We must also be proactive and engage our young adults with education so as to prevent bad decisions in the first place.



To that end, I wish to extend an invitation to partner with your district, parents, and most importantly your students through our CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES program. Our engaging educational program can be delivered at your school by one of my experienced Assistant District Attorneys. The program is tailored to young adults and their parents to discuss the real life consequences that one bad decision involving drugs, alcohol or reckless driving can have upon their lives, as well as the lives of their friends and family. The 90-minute program is based on a “reality TV” model that presents real cases, real evidence, and real people with the objective of breaking through the natural sense of teenage invincibility. The goal is that by having your students and their parents view the CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES program, we will promote healthy decision-making and decrease the incidences of serious injury or death that often occurs as a result of young adults making bad decisions behind the wheel.

If you would like to participate in our CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES program, please contact Laura Koch at [Laura.Koch@suffolkcountyny.gov](mailto:Laura.Koch@suffolkcountyny.gov) or via telephone at (631) 853-6488.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Timothy D. Sini'.

TIMOTHY D. SINI  
*Suffolk County District Attorney*

# PART ONE: THE LAW, THE FACTS, THE CASES

An Assistant District Attorney presents the hard facts about traffic crashes using real cases: They are the number one cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24 years old. They don't just happen to "other people." They can happen to you. They happen in your neighborhoods to people you know. They are almost always preventable.

*"I'm not here to scare you to death. I'm here in hopes that I will scare you into saving your own life."*



Toxicology, criminal law, collision reconstruction and opiate addiction are addressed through the cases presented. The message is simple: You are not the one who is going to beat the odds. Jail or no jail, could you live with yourself if you hurt or killed someone else?



# PART TWO: THE SKIT AND THE HEROES

"The program is tailored to young adults and their parents to discuss the real life consequences that one bad decision involving drugs, alcohol, or reckless driving can have upon all our lives." -District Attorney Tim Sini

Students perform a skit based on the facts of a real case: The driver knows he shouldn't drink. The rear passengers taunt the driver to drink. The front seat passenger tries to get the driver to stop. Distractions, speed, cell phones can all be part of the skit. They crash.

Members of the Suffolk County Police Department respond to the crash and demonstrate arrest procedures and standardized field sobriety tests. The student driver attempts to perform the test wearing Fatal Vision goggles which simulate the effects of intoxication. At the end, the students are informed the facts are taken from a real case. The driver was drunk and killed his cousin. The cousin died because he wasn't wearing a seatbelt.



# PART THREE: THE SPEAKERS

The final portion of the program is the most powerful. Victims of vehicular crimes or their families may speak to the students about how their lives have been changed forever. Young DWI and driving crime defendants are sentenced to speak at the programs as part of their community service.

The defendants face the reality of what they have done each time they share their stories. And hopefully the student audience identifies with the speaker and realizes how easily they could make these mistakes.

# PART FOUR: MAKE A PLAN!

You never expect to be in a bad or unsafe situation. Sooner or later one of your friends will be drinking at a party and shouldn't drive home. Or he or she drives recklessly all the time. Make your plan now so you are ready when it comes up!

- » Download a rideshare app on your phone that can you home safely anytime, from anywhere.
- » Keep emergency money with you to call a cab. Don't mix it with your other cash.
- » Make a deal with your family for a ride home, no questions asked.
- » Come up with the "line" now to remove yourself from an unsafe situation.
- » Save face but save your life.

**Did You Know?**  
Each of the following drinks contain an approximately equal amount of alcohol:

12 fl oz of regular beer = 8-9 fl oz of malt liquor = 5 fl oz of table wine = 1.5 fl oz shot of 80-proof spirits

Alcohol content will vary considerably depending on container size and percentage of alcohol.  
**Always be aware of what you drink!**



For more information on the  
Suffolk County District Attorney's Office's  
**CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES**  
program, please contact:

**Brendan M. Ahern**

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Brendan.Ahern@SuffolkCountyNY.gov  
631-853-6490

***Thank You to Our Partners***



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