FALL 2026

NEWSLETTER

COMPACT



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The Dangers of Roblox

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Devices, Boundries, and Routines

Addressing the full spectrum of substance misuse and mental wellness

Teen Talk Line 205-605-1830
Parent Talk Line 205-605-1827
Tip Line 205-670-6TIP
Office:205-605-1824

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS



John Samaniego Shelby County Sheriff



Matt Casey Shelby County District Attorney



Chad Scroggins Shelby County Manager

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CONNECT WITH COMPACT

COMPACT has many outlets to obtain information and resources for the families of Shelby County.

We are always available to help.



Compact Email:
connect@shelbycompact.org

Main Line:
205-605-1824

Parent Talk Line:
205-605-1827

Teen Talk Line:
205-605-1830

Click here or scan for Linktree

Student Referral Form

VIEW OUR VIDEOS

https://www.compact2020.com

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COMPACT AS A COMMUNITY RESOURCE

- **Educational presentations** for schools, communities, parents, professional groups, and organizations that include: Drug Trends, Social Media/Technology, Parental Education Information, Life Skills Training, & Vaping.

- **Interventions** to address substance misuse, certain behavioral issues, and other youth at-risk concerns.

- **Working with school systems and administrators** to address concerns impacting our youth.

- **Mentoring youth** within our schools and communities.

- **Participate in local community outreach events** by conducting presentations or setting up a display booth and connecting with the community.

Are you aware of the services & resources provided by your COMPACT team?

Contact Us:

If you would like to learn about a topic or concern not listed, email: connect@shelbycompact.org

In addition, COMPACT has a working relationship with many civic, non-profit, and religious organizations that serve the citizens of Shelby County.
If you have concerns about a juvenile, reach out to us to see if we can find a resource to meet their needs.

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COMMUNITY TEAM MEETINGS

Hello Shelby County!

In this section you will be made aware of the dates, times and location for future coalition meetings. Below are the current prevention teams and their meeting information.

- **For Tomorrow Alabaster**
  3rd Tuesday @ 11 am
  Alabaster City Hall
  https://alabasterfortomorrow.com/

- **Tri-City**
  3rd Wednesday @ 11 am
  Via Zoom
  https://www.facebook.com/TriCityImpact/about/?_rdr

- **Chelsea Impact Team**
  4th Wednesday @ 11:00 am
  Chelsea Community Center
  Chelsea Impact Team

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MEET THE TEAM



Lieutenant
Thomas Nordyke
Executive Director



Leah Lightner
Resource
Development
Coordinator



Investigator
John Kyle
Shelby County



Investigator
Ash Lightner
District
Attorney 's Office



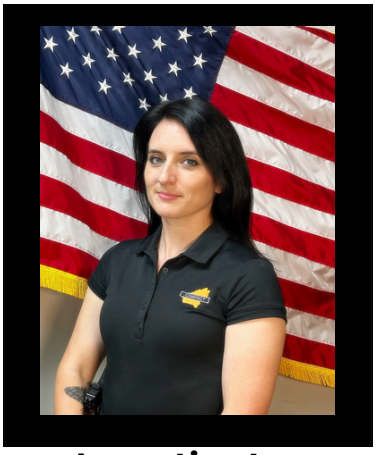
Investigator
Nate Nichols
Shelby County

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MEET THE TEAM



Investigator
Callie Flores
Pelham



Investigator
Jamelle Allen
Hoover



Investigator
John Davis
Vestavia Hills



Officer
Amy Reach
Alabaster



Detective
Jason Davis
Helena

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WELCOME



John Kyle - SCSO

MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS
John Kyle and Nate Nichols

Investigator John Kyle joined Compact in August 2026 from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office and is assigned to the Oak Mountain School Zone. He began his law enforcement journey in 2021 with the Shelby County Sheriff's Office after serving in the United States Navy and working in the private sector. Initially, Investigator Kyle worked as a patrol deputy before serving as a school resource officer. He also serves as an advisor for the Shelby County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post and as a mentor for newly hired SCSO employees.



Nate Nichols - SCSO

Investigator Nichols began his law-enforcement career in 2003 with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, where he served as Corrections Officer, Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, S.W.A.T. Team Member, Traffic Homicide Investigator, Street Crimes Unit Investigator, and Vice/Narcotics Investigator. He also served as an FBI-certified Crisis Negotiator and FBI-certified Instructor.

In 2020, Investigator Nichols transferred to the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, where he resumed his duties as a Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division while continuing his role as a Crisis Negotiator. His most recent assignment was with the United States Marshals Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force, locating and apprehending wanted fugitives while working collaboratively with federal, state, and local law-enforcement agencies.

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HOT TOPIC...

by Investigator John Kyle

The Dark Side of ROBLOX

What is it?

- Roblox is a wildly popular online game platform and creation system launched 20 years ago.
- Roblox has several game genres and millions of games.
- Robust social and communication platform

Age Verification

- Uses AI powered facial age estimation
- One time selfie-based processed to group players by age and unlock features such as chat or age restricted content
- Easy for kids or predators to find workarounds such as have an older sibling or parent use their face to open access to age restricted content. Or vice versa, have a younger family member do it if the user is wanting to be paired with younger players.



Questionable Games

- **Dating Apps like Tinder** live in Roblox under various names (Ro-Meet or AddMe, Meet V etc.) These games open up users to sexting, sextortion, kidnapping etc.
- **Life like simulations of mass shootings** such as Columbine, Sandy Hook, Pulse Night Club and Christ Church frequently are created on the platform
- Some shooters have even mentioned Roblox in their own manifestos as having been trained by Roblox or wanting to live on in Roblox
- With millions of games and ability for users to create games, the possibilities are endless for negative uses

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HOT TOPIC...

by Investigators John Kyle

Predators Abound



- Age verification is not fail proof and there are workarounds
- Even though Roblox is free to play, the in game currency **Robux** is required to make purchases in game creating spending pressures on children
- Child predators groom young users by enticing them with Robux to perform tasks (send nudes, self-harm, etc.)
- They give children roles such as moderating to make them feel important
- Predators use EPI (Early Porn Introduction) to groom prey. This EPI desensitizes and normalizes sexual behaviors and conversation. They then entice their prey to perform sexual acts and send pictures or videos
- Predators also introduce users to gore early on to normalize horrific things
- Discord (social media)- Roblox has a huge footprint on Discord and predators often lure their prey off Roblox on to channels such as Discord to arrange real life meetups
- Sexting, sextortion, kidnappings, sexual assaults, suicides, etc. have been linked to Roblox

Roblox Doesn't Care About the Predator Problem!!

- Co-founder/CEO David Baszucki was asked about the problem of predators being on the platform, he responded by saying "We think of it not necessarily as a problem but as an opportunity as well."

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HOT TOPIC...

by Investigator John Kyle

ROBLOX What should parents do?

- Remove Roblox or at least be in the room and watching his/her screen while they play.
- Disable all communications
- Monitor kids' other devices for any strange communications
- Don't let kids have access to social media apps like Discord, Kik, VR Chat, Snapchat. Kids have no need to have any of these apps
- Have discussions with you children and set rules and what to do if something happens
- Have a password/challenge question that only family knows.
- Build trust with your children. If they make a mistake or poor choice, be there for them, don't over react
- If a child comes to you and says they made a mistake i.e. sending an inappropriate picture, it is much better to help them work through the problem than to not help them or have them not come to you and do something such as commit suicide
- Educate children about the dangers of being online

Takeaways

- Roblox is popular and not going away.
- The dangers outweigh anything positive about the platform.
- Whether it be the grooming, exposure to porn/gore, possible sex trafficking etc., it's just not worth the risk.

Click links to Sources:

Roblox CEO Faces Backlash

Roblox Faces Backlash



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LEGAL UPDATE

By Investigator Ash Lightner

$12M ROBLOX ALABAMA ATTORNEY GENERAL SETTLEMENT

On April 21, 2026, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall announced a settlement with Roblox for $12,200,000.00 and the implementation of child safety reforms. The settlement, agreed to after months of negotiation, is the result of an Alabama State Attorney General investigation that found Roblox failed to protect children under the age of 16 from online predatory behavior. The settlement is expected to improve online safety for children and youth and the money from the settlement will be used for funding school resource officers in the state of Alabama via the Attorney Generals Safe School Initiative.

Roblox, a free online platform and game-creation system released in 2006, allows users to play millions of user-made games and build their own games using Roblox Studio. This platform has many opportunities for questionable games and predatory behavior by adults and endangers youth in the process. Attorney Generals from multiple states, as well as individual citizens, have ongoing lawsuits against Roblox relating to child safety. As of the first quarter of 2026, Roblox reports over 132 million daily active users, with a large portion of players being under the age of 16.

As a result of the settlement, Roblox agreed to the following reforms:

- **Age Verification:** All users must undergo age verification to ensure children have access only to age-appropriate content. Roblox committed to using facial age estimation technology and government-issued ID for age confirmation, and will use behavioral monitoring to identify users who may have been aged incorrectly.
- **Chat Restrictions:** The platform will ban chats between adult users and users under 16 without express parental permission. Roblox has created a default game and content mode for users under 16 or those with unverified age. Only parents can change that default setting.
- **Unencrypted Minor Communications:** Roblox will continue to not encrypt user communications involving minor users — a specific requirement that ensures law enforcement can access conversations when investigating child exploitation.

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LEGAL UPDATE

By Investigator Ash Lightner

"Give parents a fighting chance to shield their children..."

"Alabama stepped in where others failed to act. This settlement sends a clear message to every platform operating in this space—you cannot turn a blind eye to the exploitation of children and expect to avoid consequences," stated Attorney General Marshall.

"We have now established a framework that other states can and should use. Platforms that host child consumers must do their part to give parents a fighting chance to shield their children from harm. While parents will always play the primary role in protecting their children online, we are raising the bar on what we expect from gaming platforms—parents need a partner, not a black box. This is the beginning of a new standard, and Alabama will aggressively enforce it."

This information has been obtained from the following sources cited below. For more detailed information on the settlement, please refer to these links.

[Attorney General Marshall Announces $12.2 Million Settlement with Roblox to Ensure Child Safety - Alabama Attorney General's Office]

[Roblox $12.2M Alabama Child Safety Settlement What Parents Must Know]





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RED RIBBON WEEK

by Resource Coordinator
Leah Lightner

WHAT IS RED RIBBON WEEK?

Acording to the DEA "RED RIBBON WEEK is Celebrated Annually October 23-31. Red Ribbon Week highlights the importance of living a drug-free life. It presents an opportunity for parents, educators, and communities to reinforce the drug-free messages they share with their children throughout the year. During Red Ribbon Week, youth and adults around the nation pledge to increase their knowledge by learning more about the destructive effects of drug abuse, including prescription drug misuse, and renew their commitment to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle."



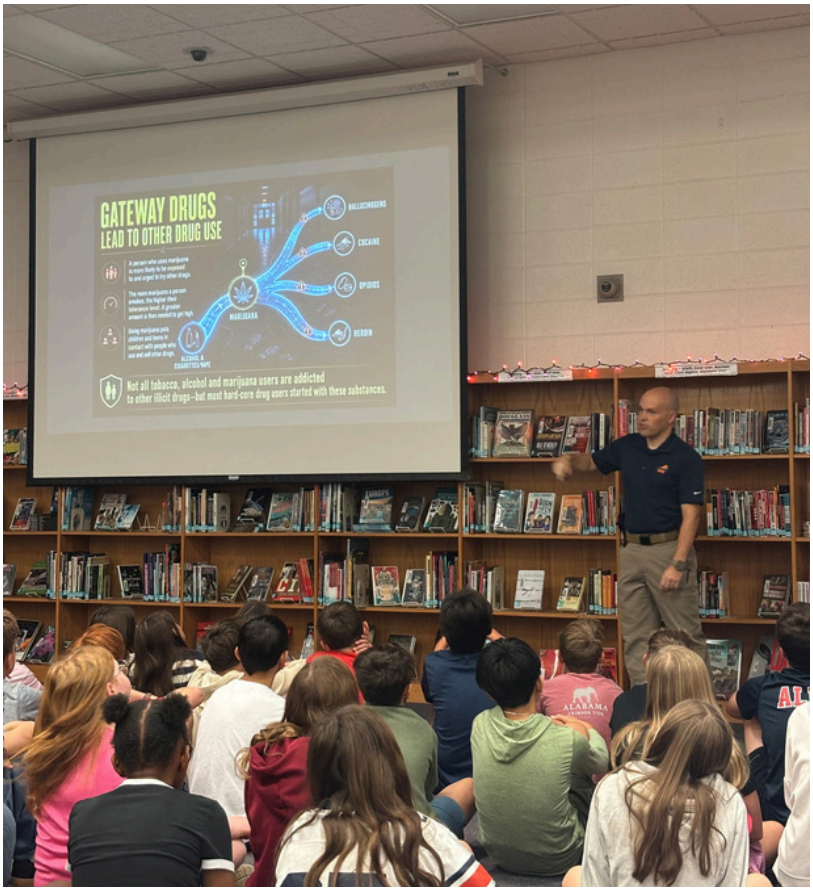
In February 1985, a 37 year old DEA Agent was working undercover in Mexico to expose a multi-billion dollar drug pipeline to the USA when he was kidnapped and later killed. Enrique "Kiki" Camarena's hometown high school in Calexico, CA started wearing red ribbons and pleged to lead drug-free lives in order to honor the sacrifice Kiki made to try keep drugs from coming into the US and their community. Red Ribbon Week and gained momentum and is celebrated nation-wide in schools and communities.

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RED RIBBON WEEK

by Resource Coordinator
Leah Lightner

COMPACT Officers are busy this time of year giving many presentaions on dangerous substances at schools across the communities we serve. We strive to prevent substance use and abuse through education. Pictured here is one of our COMPACT team members, Investigator John Kyle, giving a presentation to Oak Mountain Middle School.



[DEA Red Ribbon Week]
[Kiki Camarena and Red Riibbon Week]

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RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

by Investigator
Callie Flores

GRACE KLEIN
COMMUNITY

The holiday season is quickly approaching and while it can be a time of joy, it can also be a major source of stress. Many families are feeling the economic strain of providing food, clothing, and other basic necessities while living paycheck to paycheck. As a parent myself, I know it can be a strain deciding between buying groceries or gifts for your family. Please know you do not have to carry this burden alone, because there is a local organization ready to help: Grace Klein Community.

Grace Klein Community is a non-profit organization that services the Jefferson and Shelby County area. They offer a plethora of services and assistance to the community including: meal assistance with "contactless drive-thru sites," diapers and wipes, school supplies, Christmas assistance, volunteer opportunities and so much more.

Grace Klein Community also offers a four week program in June and July called Elevate. The program is for high school students and helps them prepare for success in high school and beyond.

Please visit Grace Klein Community's website at gracekleincommunity.com to find out more about their organization.

Source: gracekleincommunity.com Phone: 205-490-7516

COMPACT does not receive any paid endorsement and provides this for informational purposes only.

MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

By Detective
Jason Davis

Navigating Fall Transitions: Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and Academic Stress

As daylight hours shorten and the fall school semester intensifies, teens face unique mental wellness challenges. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a form of depression triggered by the shift into fall and winter, caused by decreased serotonin from reduced sunlight. When combined with academic pressures, social media stress, and extracurricular demands, youth are at a higher risk for anxiety and substance misuse as negative coping mechanisms.

Parents and educators should watch for key warning signs such as: social withdrawal, increased fatigue, changes in sleep patterns, dropping grades, and sudden irritability. Fostering open communication, encouraging outdoor physical activity during daylight, and establishing consistent routines can build teen resilience. If you notice persistent behavioral changes, get help.

Compact offers free intervention meetings and connections to other resources to help youth safely navigate these seasonal and academic stressors.

References:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): Overview of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) Symptoms and Triggers (2023)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Data and Statistics on Children's Mental Health and High Risk Behaviors (2024).

We Are Here for Your Family

You do not have to wait for a full-blown crisis to reach out for support. If the back to school transition is causing severe distress in your home, or if you suspect your teen is using substances to cope with their anxiety, COMPACT is always here to help.

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PARENTS CORNER

By: Investigator
John Davis

Parenting in this day in age is not easy. There are challenges we face as parents today that our parents and generations before did not have to navigate. Technology has been a blessing to us but as parents it has made us look at the other side of the coin and how it affects us as well as our children. Trying to manage your kids and their devices can be tricky but a good place to start could be figuring out what your family considers clear boundaries, consistent routines and open communication.

Set clear boundaries - that's easier said than done. Some ideas to help establish this are;

- Designate device-free zones: No devices in bedrooms and charging stations need to be in a common family area overnight.
- Actual screen-free times: Saying it, and following through, are two different animals. Some ideas could be things like 'no phones during family meals' and 'no devices 30-60 minutes before bedtime.
- Use a family media plan: Have an open dialogue and explain what the expectations are for what and how devices are to be used so that everyone understands and are on the same page.

Focus on Health and Balance - I mean that what we really want for our children when it comes to technology isn't it?

- Make wellness the priority: You could emphasize that screen time cannot replace sleep, being physically active, schoolwork or in person time with family.
- Give 'offline' options: I don't know about you guys, but with my kids, it always seemed to have a better result when I gave them clear choices as opposed to just saying no. Give them alternatives like playing outside with them, playing board games, playing dolls, throwing/kicking a ball etc.
- Be the change you want to see: Make sure you are walking what you are talking.
- If you want them to be in the moment and not focused on technology you do the same! I am just as guilty as the next person, but we as the adults have to understand if we aren't doing what we are asking our children to do, how much weight does what we are saying carry?

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PARENTS CORNER

By: Investigator
John Davis

Be involved - to guide the content and communication about the devices, what they are doing, how they are using it and who they are using it with.

- Be curious, not furious: Having open communication without getting frustrated is important. Ask them questions that are not 'yes' and 'no' but alternatively, ask them open-ended questions about what they watch or play online to build trust.
- Be involved so you can guide content: Show them things that are age- appropriate, educational, or creative media. Clear boundaries and expectations when it comes to content are very important when it comes to their online safety.
- Use management tools: There are setting and systems in place to help you achieve this goal. There are countless third party monitoring applications out there but you will have to look them up, research them and see if any of them would work for your family. Nothing is a 'one size fits all' and every family will have different rules for technology in their house.







Sources:
Mayo Clinic health system
Healthychildren.org
National institute of health
American academy of child and adolescent psychiatry

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TESTIMONIALS OF SUCCESS

Parent comment
after a family intervention

I'm hoping my testimony will be that both of my twin boys and their friends change their behavior and find another source of entertainment. After leaving the meeting, my son is planning to talk to his small group of friends and stop all illegal behaviors. He is planning to be the leader and positive influencer for his group. Time will tell. I am grateful for this interaction and a second chance for my son without legal ramifications!

Parent comment
after a family intervention

Did You Learn Anything New in Today's Intervention Meeting?
"Yes , I was unaware of the resources that as parents we have for our children when dealing with the current epidemic of drugs and tobacco being pushed through the school

Parent comment
after a family intervention

After only one visit, my son already made a huge shift. He was so grateful for extra support that it lifted his spirits, gave him confidence and hope.

Parent comment
after Camp Journey

I just wanted to say Thank You again! (Child's name withheld) is on the Autism Spectrum with ADHD. I have no idea how you made camp so enjoyable for her.... Thank You Thank You Thank You! Picking her up everyday with that huge smile on her face meant the world to me.

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TESTIMONIALS OF SUCCESS

Cortney McKinney
Vestavia Hills Cahaba Heights Elementary School Counselor

To Investigator Davis:
THANK YOU for taking your time to be with our students. You have a natural talent for speaking and reaching our kids. You could have heard a pin drop in the room, and you provided fun, comic relief, and GREAT information. We are so thankful for all you do!

Ashley Nipp
Oak Mountain Middle School Counselor

Dear COMPACT, Thank you so much for coming out to both parenting nights at OMMS. We are so grateful for your continued partnership with our school. We know the resources and informaiton that you share with parents is so valuable. We always appreciate your time and efforts in keeping our students safe and healthy.

Our COMPACT Team frequently receives compliments from teachers and administrators. They thank us for presentations given to both students and parents about substance abuse, digital device dangers and social media dangers. Contact COMPACT to have us present to your parent group.

connect@shelbycompact.org

They say kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Our COMPACT TEAM models this daily in all their schools. Because they deeply care, their hearts shine through in every presentation, meeting, and every encounter with our youth.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

By: Investigator
Adam Schniper

24- Hour Suicide and Crisis Lines

- National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (English) Call or text 988.
- National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (Spanish) Call 988 and press 2.
- SafeHouse and SafeShelby: 205.669.7233 - SafeHouse and Safe Shelby is Shelby County's domestic and/or sexual violence survivor's crisis and talk line. Fellow survivors can assist with counseling support, legal guidance, and case management to help survivors create a new and better life. Visit the website for Safehouse and SafeShelby.

Non-Crisis Talk Lines

- Birmingham Crisis Center UTALK Teen Text and Talk Line: 205.328.5465-This talk line connects teens to other young adults to discuss life problems. Visit the website for Birmingham Crisis Center.
- Compact Teen Talk Line: 205.605.1830 - Teens who may have concerns about a family member's, friend's, or their own substance abuse. Visit the website for Compact.
- Compact Parent Talk Line: 205.605.1827 - Parents may call this line if they suspect their child is involved in high risk behavior and/or substance misuse.

General Assistance

- Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA): 205.942.5505- HICA is a community development and advocacy organization that promotes economic equality, civic engagement, and social justice for Latino and immigrant families in Alabama. HICA offers crime victim services and advocacy, family services, student services, financial coaching, and legal information. Visit the website for the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama.
- Alabama Department of Human Resources Shelby County: 205.669.3000 - DHR provides basic needs and food programs for families, care assistance for the elderly and disabled individuals, and job assistance and job training programs. Learn more about DHR services.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

By: Investigator
Adam Schniper

Support For Families| Substance Abuse

- Alanon and Alateen: 205.388.3765 - Alanon and Alateen offer support groups for families and children of individuals with an alcohol use disorder. Visit the website for Alanon and Alateen

- Addiction Prevention Coalition: 205.972.8264 - Provides resources, awareness, and education and support groups for families and individuals. Visit the Addiction Prevention Coalition website to learn more.

- UAB Family Support Meetings: 205.975.8402 - Offers a support group for families and loved ones of individuals suffering from substance use disorder. Meetings are Thursday evenings from 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Learn more about the UAB Family Support Meetings.

- Bradford Health Services: 1.888.762.3740 - Bradford Health Services Family Program is a free online resource to educate families on their loved ones' substance use disorder. Visit the website to learn more about Bradford Health Services.

- ROSS Recovery Organization of Support Specialists and Alabama Department of Mental Health 24-hour Helpline: 1.844.307.1760 Call and discuss substance use disorder issues with a peer support specialist who is in recovery. The organization offers various support meetings that reflect all walks of life. Learn more about ROSS here.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

By: Investigator Adam Schniper

Mental Wellness Services

- Central Alabama Wellness: 205.651.0077 - Central Alabama Wellness provides an array of services for adults and children dealing with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Visit the website for Central Alabama Wellness.

- Children's Psychiatric Intake Response Center: 205.638.7472 - Located in Children's Hospital, the PIRC assists families in finding the appropriate level of mental health care for a child or teen. Visit the website for Children's of Alabama.

- National Alliance on Mental Illness Shelby County (NAMI)- NAMI Shelby serves Shelby County residents with free mental health support meetings for families and individuals, resources, and education. Services are for individuals living with a mental illness and the families who love them. Call 205.202.0827 or click Learn more about NAMI here.

- Family Connection: 205.663.6301 - This organization strengthens families and communities by providing shelter, counseling, and safety for young people in crisis. Programs are available for school truancy, bullying, runaway, or homeless youth. Visit the website for Family Connection.

- Vineyard Family Services: 205.317.9897 - The mission of Vineyard Family Services of Central Alabama, Inc. (VFS) is to feed kids in need, promote responsible fatherhood, mentor teens, and help families in crisis. All our programs are designed to strengthen families and lower incidents of child abuse and neglect. Learn more about VFS.

CLICK HERE FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND CONTACT INFORMATION!

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VIDEO RESOURCES

CHECK OUT THE LATEST VIDEOS FROM COMPACT.

COMPACT and Protective Factors

COMPACT and YMCA of Greater Birmingham, Digital Safety

COMPACT Chat 5 - Kratom and Kava

COMPACT WBRC Community Corner - THC and Driving

COMPACT - CAMP JOURNEY - The best part of summer.

COMPACT WBRC Community Corner - Gangs

COMPACT WBRC - Sextortion

COMPACT Chat - 4 Youth Street Gangs

COMPACT WBRC Community Corner - Sexting

YouTube

MORE VIDEOS AVAILABLE

https://www.youtube.com/@ShelbyCompact/videos

Juvenile Substance/Intervention Program
Referral Form

Referral Date: _____

Student's Name (required): _____ Age: _____

School (required): _____ Grade Level: _____
Please see back section for assigned Compact Investigator

Parent/Guardian Information

Names (required): _____ | _____

Phone Number (required): _____ | _____

Email Address (if available): _____ | _____

Reason for Referral

☐ Substance (i.e. drug, alcohol, etc.): _____

☐ Behavioral (runaway, truancy, domestic, etc.): _____

☐ Traumatic event: _____

☐ Other "at-risk" concern: _____

Law Enforcement Report I/O or Case number (if available): _____
Email / Attach report copy if available

Additional notes/concerns for Compact Team:

Referred By: _____ Agency/Organization: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Compact Main Phone: 205-605-1824 | Compact Teen Line: 205-605-1830
Compact Parent Line: 205-605-1827

Compact Website: www.compact2020.com

I MATTER TO EVERY CHILD

Today, I might be the only safe place
a child will experience.

Today, I might be the only adult
to show a child they are loved.

Today, I might be the only adult
that smiles in a child's presence.

Today, I might be the only adult
that shows a child they matter.

Today, I might be the only adult
that shows a child someone cares about them.

Every Moment Counts.
Every Child Matters.
I matter to every child.

BY LEAH LIGHTNER

COMPACT

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