

29. October 2025

Children and youth

Celebrate Halloween - youth protection also applies to the scary night

City of Bocholt reminds of applicable youth protection regulations // Responsibility of parents, event organisers and adults

When witches, vampires and ghosts are on the loose again on 31 October, many young people will be celebrating Halloween in style. To ensure that the evening remains safe and carefree, the city of Bocholt reminds us that the protection of minors also applies on this spooky night. The Youth Protection Act (JuSchG) and the Cannabis Act (CanG) set out clear rules to protect children and young people.

According to the Youth Protection Act, young people under the age of 16 are not allowed to drink beer, wine or sparkling wine. High-proof drinks, alcopops or spirits are taboo until the age of 18. Tobacco products and e-cigarettes, including so-called "vapes" or e-shishas, may only be consumed from the age of 18 and their sale to minors is also prohibited. The same applies to the purchase, possession and consumption of cannabis by young people.

"Especially on Halloween, when costumes and peer pressure play a major role, many young people underestimate the dangers of alcohol", explains Doris Springer, Head of the Youth and Family Department at the City of Bocholt, "Even small amounts can lead to loss of consciousness, accidents or alcohol poisoning." The liver of young people cannot yet fully break down alcohol, which intensifies its effects and increases the risk of damage to health. In addition to health risks, alcohol can also lead to conflicts, accidents or risky behaviour.

Parents, guardians and chaperones have a special responsibility on this evening. They should set a good example and seek dialogue with young people. Event organisers are asked to ensure that the age limits are observed, to carry out ID checks and to have alcohol-free alternatives available. Adults should also take note: The consumption of cannabis is prohibited in public near schools, daycare centres or playgrounds.

"Halloween should be fun and an enjoyable experience for everyone", emphasises Doris Springer, "anyone who shows responsibility will ensure that the spooky night remains a happy and safe celebration."



© Stadt Bocholt

The Bocholt city council building in Kaiser-Wilhelm-Straße.