

SEAN'S STORY - LESSON PLAN

Target Audience

Sean's Story is suitable fire education material for a wide variety of audiences. The video and lesson plan can be used with teenagers, adults, and the elderly. *Sean's Story* is not considered appropriate for very young children. The recommended age range of this lesson is for children 8 – 17 years of age.

Learning Objectives

Upon viewing the video and completing the lesson, the juvenile should have an understanding of the numerous and long-lasting financial, social, legal, and medical consequences of firesetting. The child should also have an understanding of the legal consequences of arson, including the several degrees of arson in Connecticut. The child should be able to relate the financial effects to themselves, and to their families.

Lesson Outline

Before viewing, explain to the audience the purpose of having them watch the video. Emphasize that what they are about to see is a true story. What happened to Sean as a result of his choice to misuse fire can and does happen to children and teens every day. Our goal is to prevent this from happening to you. *Optional:* Administer a written pre-test or verbally ask some of the test questions.

Show the video

Discuss the pre-video questions again and see if the child's opinion has changed. Ask any or all of the following questions:

"What is "Arson"?"

"What are some examples of fires that meet the definition of arson?"

"How serious a crime is arson? Is it a felony?"

"Can kids be arrested for misusing fire?"

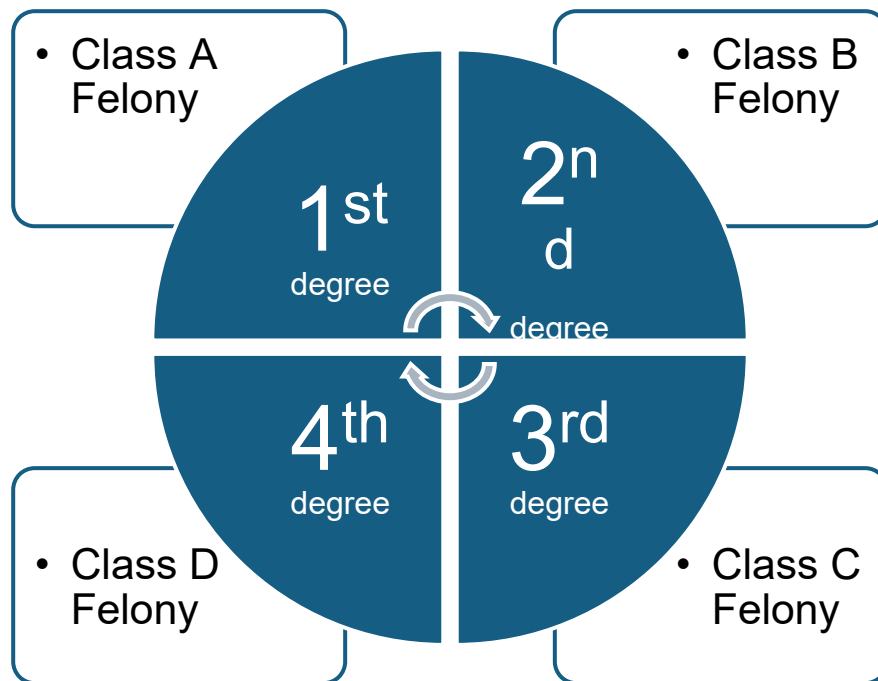
"How are you and Sean different?"

"How are you and Sean similar?"

"What are some of the problems you and your family could face if you misuse fire?"



Explain the crime of Arson in Connecticut and the four degrees of Arson. Explain how each is a felony and the possible penalties for each.



1. **First Degree Arson** - Class A Felony
 1. Prison sentence between 10 and 25 years
 2. A fine of up to \$20,000
2. **Second Degree Arson** - Class B Felony
 1. Prison sentence between one and 20 years
 2. A fine of up to \$15,000
3. **Third Degree Arson** - Class C Felony
 1. Prison sentence between one and 10 years
 2. A fine of up to \$10,000

Administer Post-Test

Have the child complete the attached Post-Test. Go over the answers with the child and instruct on any incorrect answers.

Discussions and Activities (*Optional*)

Have the child discuss their favorite activities. Explain how sports, friends, games, etc. could be taken away if convicted of a felony and sentenced to a juvenile detention center.

Have the child discuss how their fire incident was similar to Sean's and who their incident could have impacted.

Have the child describe the financial responsibilities that their parents have or could have incurred as a result of their misuse of fire.

Discuss the choices and consequences of the misuse of fire at their age.

SEAN'S STORY – POST TEST

1) "Age of culpability" means the age a person can:

- ☐ have their juvenile records erased
- ☐ testify as a witness to a crime
- ☐ become legally independent from their parents
- ☐ be held legally responsible for their actions

2) Your friends are lighting body spray on fire to make a video to post on the internet.

you should:

3) Restitution may include all of the following, except:

- ☐ paying for fire department and EMS response
- ☐ replacement of damaged property
- ☐ if it was a practical joke, there is no restitution
- ☐ medical treatment costs

4) Who is responsible for your decision to correctly use or misuse fire?

- ☐ my parents
- ☐ my friends
- ☐ me
- ☐ the police

5) Which of the following is an appropriate and responsible use of fire?

- ☐ experimenting with a small bomb
- ☐ putting gasoline on a campfire
- ☐ playing with a lighter
- ☐ lighting birthday candles

6) If I see someone misusing fire, I should:

- ☐ ignore it and walk away
- ☐ record it and post it on YouTube
- ☐ tell an adult or call 911
- ☐ go watch what they are doing

7) Which of the following statements about fire is true?

- ☐ poisonous gases can be created
- ☐ a small fire can't be considered arson
- ☐ fire can always be controlled
- ☐ fire destroys all evidence

8) If you get an arson or felony charge, you might:

- ☐ gain the trust of teachers and parents
- ☐ be limited in the career or job you can get
- ☐ receive financial credit to rent an apartment
- ☐ have an easier time getting accepted into college or a trade school

9) John was playing in an abandoned building and lit some garbage on the floor on fire.

Fires in abandoned buildings:

- ☐ are no big deal if the building is abandoned ☐ won't be investigated
- ☐ can cause serious injury to someone ☐ have no cost to anyone

10) Julie was upset that a girl from school was spreading rumors about her. Julie decided to get even by lighting the girl's papers on fire in her locker. Julie was caught, suspended, and is facing expulsion from school. Instead of lighting a fire, all of the following would have been a better choice for Julie, except:

- ☐ releasing some anger by going for a run ☐ telling the girl to stop
- ☐ pushing the girl ☐ talking to a teacher or school counselor