



## Party Advice for Parents of Teens



### BEFORE THE PARTY

**KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.** You are **LEGALLY LIABLE** for the consequences of underage drinking in your home, whether or not you supplied the alcohol.

Help your teenager plan the party. Make a guest list and invite only a specific number of people.

Have your child pass out or send invitations and try to avoid the “open party” situation.

Don't send e-mail invitations. They can be forwarded to a large number of people quickly and you lose control of who has this information.

Put your phone number on the invitation and welcome calls from parents.

Set rules ahead of time, such as lights will be left on, and no alcohol, drugs or tobacco, or gate crashers allowed. Set a start and end time for the party.

Invite some other parents to help chaperone if there will be a large number of teenagers.

Have a plan for dealing with vehicles. Include parking information in your party invitation.

Plan some activities such as music, games, movies, etc.

Let your neighbors know in advance there will be a party and that you will be there to supervise. Familiarize yourself with the noise ordinance in your area.

Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages.

Secure all forms of alcohol, firearms, and other potentially hazardous items in your home in a safe place. Remove prescription and over-the counter drugs from bathrooms and other rooms that will be used by guests.

Remain sober so that you will have a clear head to deal with any situation.



## DURING THE PARTY



Limit the party access to a certain area of the house/property.

Let attendees know that if they leave, they can't come back.

Call parents of any teen who arrives in possession of alcohol or under the influence. If you can't get in touch with the parents, keep them there or call the police if necessary. You can be liable if you know they are intoxicated and you let them leave.

Make regular and unobtrusive visits to the party area with sensitivity to teens' needs for privacy and independence.

### If your teen is attending a party:

Know where your child will be. Call the parent in charge to verify the location of the party and ensure there will be no alcohol served or allowed.

Ask how many teens are expected at the party, and how the adult will handle the situation if a teen shows up with alcohol or under the influence. Offer to help supervise.

Indicate your expectations to your child if they plan to leave the party. Make sure they know that they should let you know their whereabouts at all times.

Assure your child that they can call or text you to be picked up whenever needed. They should be instructed to never ride with someone who has been drinking any alcohol, or who is under the influence of drugs. Agree not to lecture or argue when you pick your child up. Save discussions for a later time.

Plan for your teen to check in with you when they come home. This will ensure that they have arrived home on time and are not under the influence.

## Use the free and confidential Underage Hotline at 1-866 UNDER 21



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