

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST

Parental Liability for underage drinking & parties

**Don't be a party
to teenage
drinking.**

**It's against the
law.**

THINK: If there is underage drinking at this party - is it worth it?

- Teens can lose their acceptance to colleges and/or scholarships if something happens.
- A party house can devalue your property and your neighborhood.
- Your friends and neighbors can lose respect for you.
- The list of severe and often tragic

consequences related to underage drinking is remarkable: fatal car crashes, rape, unwanted pregnancy, suicide, homicide, academic failure, vandalism, alcohol poisoning, and more.

- Alcohol consumption by adolescents results in brain damage - possibly permanent - and impairs intellectual development.

CONSEQUENCES can be VERY expensive

- It's illegal to host a party where minors drink alcohol, or even allow teen drinking in your home. You could receive a significant fine.
- Your homeowners insurance may increase. The company may even drop you. Most policies don't cover damage or theft from underage drinking parties.
- If an underage teen at your party drives after drinking it will cost you. If there is a crash, just add zeros. If your car is damaged or if you submit a claim on your insurance policy, get ready to pay out again. If you're lucky enough to keep your policy.
- A teen driver caught for underage drinking and driving, will lose the privilege to drive.
- You will be held civilly liable if sued by another parent. Injuries, alcohol poisoning, or sexual assault may result in law suits. And you may be held responsible even if you weren't home, or didn't know about the party!

Plan the Party with your Teen

- Make a guest list and limit the number of attendees.
- Personal invitations are best to avoid an "open party" situation. Do NOT e-mail invitations because they can be forwarded.
- Put your phone number on the invitation and welcome calls from parents. Invite other parents to help during the party and provide additional supervision.
- Develop rules ahead of time and be clear: no alcohol, drugs or tobacco.

During the Party

- Limit party access to a specified area of the home and let friends know that if they leave, they cannot come back.
- Have plenty of food and soft drinks and don't be afraid to make regular and unobtrusive visits to the party area.
- Check the backpacks and jackets of all attendees. Put all belongings in one area that is supervised by an adult and is only accessible when the guests arrive and leave.

Before you go out of town

- Set and communicate clear rules to be followed in your absence including no parties or gatherings while you're gone and be direct about your expectations and the consequences of your child's actions.
- Give your teen the phone numbers of several adults to call in case of an emergency and contact your local police agency to check your property during routine patrols.
- Notify neighbors to keep an eye out.

If your teen is attending a party elsewhere

- Call the parent host to verify the occasion and location of the party, and ensure there will be appropriate supervision and no alcohol.
- Know how your child is getting to and from the party. Reinforce the message that they should never drink or allow someone who has been drinking or using other drugs to drive them home anywhere, anytime.
- Set up a "code" with your child, so that he or she can call you to come and get him/her - no questions asked - if alcohol is being served.
- Be aware when your teen arrives home. Kissing your child goodnight is the best way to know if alcohol, marijuana or tobacco was present.