

Guidelines for Prom & Graduation Parties

- ☑ Know where your child is going after the prom or graduation parties.
- ☑ Call ahead to confirm that there will be adult supervision and that no alcohol will be served.
- ☑ Be aware of the transportation arrangements and if using a limo, verify the destination in advance with the limo driver.
- ☑ Have your child contact you when they reach the party destination. If you have questions, ask to speak with the adult who is supervising the party.
- ☑ If your child is planning on attending multiple after-prom or graduation parties, be aware of and confirm each destination and the end time for each party.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

Recent surveys with over 3,800 youth (6th-12th grade) in six local school districts showed:

- ◆ that about 30% of youth age 12-18 reported using alcohol at least once in the month prior to the survey;
- ◆ the average age of first use of alcohol is 12.8; and
- ◆ 48% of youth feel that regular use of alcohol is risky or harmful for teens.

Nine out of 10 teenage automobile accidents involve the use of alcohol. Young people who began drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who abstained until age 21.

QUESTIONS TO ASK A LIMO COMPANY

- ✓ Does the vehicle carry the proper New York State registration and insurance and appropriately licensed drivers for its passenger capacity?
- ✓ How many passengers does the limo seat? Ask to see the registration and insurance cards for the vehicle being used to make sure the capacity is not being exceeded.
- ✓ Are your drivers checked through the DMV and insurance company? Are minors allowed to contract with you, or do you require a parental signature? What are your policies when drugs and/or alcohol are being used by a minor?
- ✓ Are minors allowed to go off while drivers wait for them to return? Will the privacy window remain down while transporting minors? At any point, are single couples allowed to remain in the limousine alone once the destination has been reached?
- ✓ Do drivers require an itinerary of approved destinations prior to departure from parents, or are youth permitted to determine destinations as they go along? Do you transport minors to Canada?



YOU MATTER!

The **ONLY** Thing Between Alcohol and **YOUR** Children Is **YOU**.



Parents Who Host is a campaign developed by the Drug Free Action Alliance. It is brought to you by Healthy Communities that Care, an initiative of the Genesee Valley Health Partnership.

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Suggestions for Parents

Don't be a Party to Underage Drinking!

It's Against The Law!

Whether for a graduation party, a holiday celebration, a prom, or a birthday celebration, the liability of offering alcohol to underage teens is the same!

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

- ✓ You cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstance — even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.
- ✓ You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property if they are consuming or possessing alcohol.



IF YOU BREAK THE LAW

- ✓ You can face a maximum sentence of up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
- ✓ Others can sue you if you give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they, in turn, hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property.
- ✓ Officers can take any alcohol, money, or property used in committing the offense.

IF YOUR TEEN IS GIVING A PARTY

- ✓ Limit the number of guests. Pass out or send invitations & try to avoid "open party" situations.
- ✓ Don't send e-mail invitations.
- ✓ Put your phone number on the invitation and welcome calls from parents.
- ✓ Set rules ahead of time such as no alcohol, drugs or tobacco. Set a start & end time for the party.
- ✓ Let attendees know that if they leave, they can't come back.
- ✓ Let your neighbors know in advance there will be a party and that you will be there to supervise.
- ✓ 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 the teen there or call the police if necessary. You can be civilly liable if you know they have been drinking & you let them leave.
- ✓ Secure all alcohol, firearms & other potentially hazardous items in your home in a safe place.
- ✓ Make regular visits to the party area with sensitivity to teens' needs for privacy and independence.
- ✓ Invite some other parents to help chaperone.

IF YOUR TEEN IS ATTENDING A PARTY

- ✓ Know where your child will be. Call the parent in charge to verify the occasion & location of the party and ensure there will be adult supervision.
- ✓ Make certain that the host will not be serving or allowing alcohol. Ask how they plan to handle the situation if a teen shows up with alcohol or has been drinking. Offer to chaperone or to bring snacks over.
- ✓ Indicate your expectations to your child & the parent hosting the party. Tell them if the teens leave and go elsewhere, you will want to know.
- ✓ Set a curfew for your teen to be home. When they arrive home, have them check in with you.
- ✓ Assure your child that they can call you to be picked up whenever needed.

WHEN YOU'RE AWAY FROM HOME OR OUT OF TOWN

- ✓ Set and communicate rules and standards to be followed while you're away. Don't allow underage youth to have unsupervised parties or gatherings. Remind them of their responsibilities and the consequences of their actions.
- ✓ Have a relative or responsible adult stay at your home while you're away; have your teenager stay with a responsible adult, or ask a neighbor to watch the house and stop in while you are gone.
- ✓ If you are concerned that your child might have a party anyway, call your local police and ask them to drive by while you are away. Make it a point to tell your child that you have asked the police to do this.

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST™

Don't be a party to teenage drinking.

It's against the law.

Other Ideas

- ◇ Get to know your children's friends and their parents and find out their policy on alcohol, drug and tobacco use!
- ◇ Encourage alcohol-free and drug-free parties and activities for underage youth.