



Keep Your Teenager Safe When They Go Out

Should I Let My Teen Attend a Party?

Follow your *instincts* as well as consider these guidelines:

- Ask your child if the parents are going to be home. Let them know you will be calling the parents to insure they will be at chaperoning the party. Join the Parent Network, see *Parent Network* hand out.
- **Call the parent of the host/hostess**
 - Verify the occasion, times, location, and that there will be appropriate adult supervision
 - Verify that there will be no alcohol or other drugs permitted
 - Offer assistance with chaperoning
 - Offer to bring food or beverages (this is a great ice-breaker if you don't know the other parents)
- **Know where your teen will be and have them check in**
 - When your teen checks in with a cell phone, ask to speak with the parent who is in charge OR make a call to the “landline” to verify.
 - Know how your teen will get to and from the party
 - Assure that you (or a specified neighbor or friend) can be called if he/she needs a ride home
 - Discuss with your teen why and how that might occur
 - Provide any phone contact info to your teen, if you will not be at home
 - Have a “code word” that may use when he/she calls you in order to discretely get out of a bad situation
 - Assure your teen that he/she can call you in ANY situation of concern
 - Remind your child never to get in a car with a driver who has been drinking
- **Designate a firm time (curfew) they have to be home**
- **Be awake when they come home**
 - This can be a good way to check the time, as well as talk about the evening.
 - Talk to your teen “face to face” and “eye to eye”; Check for physical signs of illegal substance use.
 - Be prepared if they ask to stay overnight. Many parents find that overnights are not worth the hassle and this may be an excuse as they are going to be using substances.

Teen Parties Are They Safe?



It is up to parents to provide safe, and reliable places for teens to hang out together. Did you know that parents who host underage drinking parties are breaking the law? Parents who give alcohol to their teen’s friends under any circumstances, even in their own homes, are breaking the law. They can also be sued if they give alcohol to anyone under 21 and they in turn hurt someone, hurt themselves or damage property. If you know of anyone that is hosting a place for teens to consume alcohol or drugs, please report this to the law enforcement!