



# TEEN PARTIES

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parties are an important part of young people's lives for socialization, relaxation, and entertainment. Parenting teens can be challenging but know that you are not alone. Parents have the right to expect that social situations remain free from alcohol/drug use and other risk-taking behaviors. This guide is intended to provide tips that help protect both you and your teen.

85%

do not allow their teens to drink even with adult supervision

71%

do not allow their teens to attend parties where underage drinking occurs

2021 survey of 245 District 113 parents



### FOR TEENS 17 & UNDER

#### ILLINOIS DRIVING CURFEW

*Driver's license is invalid*  
Sunday – Thursday: 10 pm – 6 am  
Friday – Saturday: 11 pm – 6 am

#### LOCAL CURFEW

*May not be present at or upon any public place, building or street*  
Sunday – Thursday: 11 pm – 6 am  
Friday – Saturday: midnight – 6 am

## HOSTING A PARTY

- ▶ Set **ground rules** with your teen and their friends before the party. Lay out clear expectations and specify consequences if expectations are not met.
- ▶ Encourage **small parties that are invitation only** as they are easier to control and monitor. Do not allow last minute changes.
- ▶ **Contact parents of all attendees** via phone or email before the party. Share expectations of a sober event and ask parents to share with their teens. Invite parents to stop by and help chaperone. If a teen is sleeping over, ask the parents to check bags prior to leaving their home. Obtain cell phone information for all attendees' parents.
- ▶ **Check your entire home for hidden substances** prior to the party, including all entrances, bushes around the outside of the house, removable ceiling tiles, window sills, storage areas, etc. Remove access to alcohol, marijuana and prescription drugs inside the home.
- ▶ **Inform attendees** that anyone who leaves the party will not be allowed to return. If this happens, notify the guest's parents.
- ▶ **Notify the neighbors and police** when planning a large party.
- ▶ Have at least one **adult chaperone** present and visible throughout the party. Do not allow siblings to chaperone, even if they're over 18. Check in on party guests often, perhaps when replenishing refreshments.
- ▶ Monitor all entrances/exits and **watch for prolonged activity away from the party** (i.e., outdoors, bathrooms). Do not have your own guests over unless they agree to help chaperone.
- ▶ Be alert for **signs of alcohol or other drug use**. If you suspect a teen is intoxicated, call his/her parents and if necessary call 911.
- ▶ Consider enlisting **police help if the party gets out of hand**. If the hosts or owners of a residence where underage drinking is occurring contact the police for assistance before a formal complaint is received, they are better positioned to avoid prosecution for a state statute violation.

Community – The Anti-Drug Coalition is a 501(c)3 nonprofit working to reduce the use of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs among our youth. We strive to make the drug-free choice the easy choice.



CommunityTheAntiDrug.org



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## WHEN YOUR TEEN ATTENDS A PARTY

- ▶ **Contact the parents** of the party host to verify plans and that no drugs or alcohol will be permitted. Don't be afraid to communicate your family's "no use" rules. Offer to help chaperone and/or bring food, beverages.
- ▶ Know where the party is and **confirm your teen is there**. Let your teen know to call/text you with any change in plans. Consider obtaining an app that offers location tracking and history.
- ▶ Help your teen feel comfortable to **call home for a ride or assistance**. Establish code words with your teen so you know when they need you.
- ▶ **Be awake** when your teen comes home, or have your teen wake you when they arrive. Talk to your teen and inquire about the party. Night time is often when teens are most talkative.
- ▶ **Check the ending time** to make sure it fits with your town's curfew restrictions. Talk to your teen about allowing enough time to drive home safely before curfew.
- ▶ If your teen is **staying overnight**, make plans prior to the party with the host parent. Consider a no-sleepover policy (with case-by-case exceptions) as this is often how teens keep their alcohol and drug use hidden from parents.

## WHEN PARENTS ARE AWAY

Teens, even seniors in high school, still need supervision when you are away. Make sure it is provided. Many parties occur at the homes of teens whose parents are out of town. Remember, even if you are not present, you can still be held liable for social hosting. Before you leave:

- ▶ **Set clear rules** with your teen that no parties or friends are allowed in your home when an authorized adult is not present.
- ▶ **Let police know** when you will leave, who has access to your house, and when you will return.
- ▶ **Let neighbors know** when you will be gone and when you will return. Make sure they know how to contact you.
- ▶ **Tell parents** of your teen's friends when you will be away.

## HOST CONSEQUENCES

Illinois law holds parents or other adults accountable for knowingly permitting underage youth to consume alcohol or marijuana at their residence or on other property they own or otherwise control. The law sends a message that hosting parties with underage alcohol/drug use is unacceptable conduct, empowers concerned citizens to report suspected underage drinking, and provides law enforcement with a tool to address parties that can be a threat to public health.

- ▶ **Potential Fine:** \$500 up to \$25,000
- ▶ **Potential Jail Time:** 1 day up to 3 years
- ▶ **Additional Sanctions Available:** Probation and/or Court Supervision
- ▶ **Safe Harbor Provision:** If the person who occupies a residence where underage drinking is occurring contacts the police for assistance (before anyone else makes a formal complaint) the person may avoid prosecution for a violation of the statute.
- ▶ If a minor who was drinking or using marijuana at your house injures or kills someone, you could be held liable of a Class 4 felony, which could result in both a fine and/or jail time.

For local social host ordinance information, check with your police department.