

TIPS FOR PARENTS WHEN SUPERVISING TEEN PARTIES

We hope the following provides you with enough information to confidently hold teen parties in your home. Please remember when reading these that it is far better for you to be hosting parties in your home where you know that teens can have fun and be safe.

Before the party...

- Invitations:
 - Limit attendance and hours
 - Agree to a guest list-attendance is limited to invited guests
 - Send invitations or have your teen call personally.
 - Discuss your responsibilities to chaperone and actively supervise.
- Decide with your teen which areas of the house will be used and which are off-limits.
- Discuss acceptable behavior and the consequences of unacceptable behavior. Set party ground rules with your teen, including:
 - Anyone leaving the party will not be allowed to return.
 - Party crashers will not be allowed.
 - You will chaperone and actively supervise.
 - The only beverages allowed are the ones you provide-no outside drinks.
 - Write down the rules so there is no misunderstanding.
- Split the work load. Make sure your teen knows what his/her responsibilities are and the time line for completing tasks.
- Reinforce with your teen that you won't be serving any alcohol or providing controlled substances to guests because it's against the law. You will not allow anyone attending the party to provide alcohol or other drugs in your home or on your property because that is against the law and you could be held liable if problems occur.
- Make sure you will be home at all times during the party. There should be at least two chaperones for a small party, more if larger.

- Welcome phone calls from parents calling to ask about the party at your house and offers to help chaperone or provide food. Affirm that you will be enforcing guidelines for behavior.
- Keep a guest list of those invited to the party and their parents' phone numbers in case you need to reach them in an emergency or if they are breaking the rules.
- Speak with your neighbors ahead of time about the party, possible noise and traffic.
- Discuss with your teen ways to handle problem guests. Let your teen know that he/she can call on you if he/she needs help.
- Remove prescription and non-prescription medications from bathrooms and bedrooms, lock up wine or liquor cabinets, and remove your personal supply of wine or beer from the refrigerator. Place these items either in a room that you've designated as off-limits to the teens or in a locked car.
- Discuss with your teen what the plans are for the party-food, entertainment, etc. A well-planned party is likely to go better than just "hanging out."

During the party.....

- You must actively supervise the party according to the law. Actively supervising means passing through frequently. You need to be visible. (Staying in another part of the house the whole time is not "actively" supervising.)
- Search backpacks and purses as guests arrive as an extra precaution.
- Serve food and drinks in smaller quantities and throughout the party time to give you a valid excuse to be passing through the party area.
- Be alert to signs of alcohol and drug use. Teens who try to bring in alcohol or other drugs or who refuse to comply with other party rules should be asked to leave. Notify their parents.
- Notify the parents of any teen who arrives at the party under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Never let anyone drive under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. If their parents cannot pick them up, find them a safe ride home. Follow up with the parents that they arrived home safely.
- Do not allow teens to leave the party and return, including going to their cars for "something". Ask another chaperone to take the teen's keys and go to the car to retrieve the item. Teens who will involve themselves in an illegal activity will leave a party, do it, and then want to return.
- If things get out of hand, don't hesitate to call the police.