



Party Tips for Parents

How does your family decide on teenage privileges and responsibilities? Have you ever wished for a standard to help you make those decisions? The following guidelines are designed just for that purpose.

When Your Child Is Invited to a Party

1. When your child receives an invitation to a party, tell him/her that you intend to call the host parent to determine whether there will be parental supervision and if alcoholic beverages will be served. Be sure to follow through on these plans.
2. When you are comfortable with the party plans, including transportation arrangements, only then give your consent for the child to attend the party. Be sure to know when the party ends and when your child will be home.
3. Make it easy for your child to leave any party or situation where there is drinking or other drug use. You should discuss this in advance. If, for any reason, your child wishes to leave the party early or has a change in plans, he/she should be able to call you or another designated adult for assistance.
4. Make it easy for your child to talk to you when arriving home. Being up and available when your child comes home encourages communication and could alert you to a potential problem. Set an alarm for yourself, if necessary.

When Your Child Is Having a Party

1. Check your child's guest list and party plans. Suggest changes if necessary, but try to be tactful.
2. Set specific beginning and ending times for the party. Have planned activities.
3. Set ground rules that are clearly understood by both you and your child in advance. These include:
 - No alcohol or drugs
 - No smoking
 - No leaving the party and then returning
 - Limit the party to appropriate areas of your house
4. Reconcile your child's plans for the party with your own standards. Don't compromise your standards but be understanding of your child's feelings.
5. Know your legal responsibilities and share this information with your child.
6. Remove any family liquor from areas where young people will be.
7. Invite parents of guests to help with the chaperoning.
8. Make yourself and other chaperones visible at the party. Introduce yourselves to the guests. Don't hide in another room. Be Seen!
9. Occasionally check on all areas of the house including the yard and garage.
10. Backpacks and coats should be left at the door.
11. Cups, open cans/bottles (water, soda, etc.), cannot be brought into the party.

Five A's for Parents

1. **Be Aware of their attitudes.**
2. **Be Alert to their environment.**
3. **Be Around their activities.**
4. **Be Assertive in your parenting.**
5. **Be Awake when they come home.**

Legal Consequences

The Allen County Prosecutor's Office, The Allen County Superior Court, The Allen County Circuit Court, The Allen County Sheriff's Department and the Fort Wayne Police Department affirm a policy of zero tolerance for minors consuming alcohol, minors transporting alcohol or minors in possession of alcohol and other illegal substances, as well as alcohol related offenses. Historically members of these departments were allowed discretion in these matters. This zero tolerance policy will be applied fairly and evenly to all adults contributing to the delinquency of minors and will be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law.

- **Adults who provide alcohol to minors are committing a crime.**
Providing alcohol to minors (contributing to the delinquency of a minor) is subject to a \$5,000 fine and/or imprisonment of up to one year.
- **Adults who provide alcohol to minors are subjecting them to criminal prosecution.**
Providing alcohol to minors puts a young person at risk of criminal prosecution for possessing alcohol.
- **Adults who provide alcohol to children are sending a message that kids do not have to obey the law.**
- **Adults who provide alcohol to minors are responsible for their victims.**
Alcohol related fatalities on the roadways as well as other alcohol related crimes, are on the rise across the country. Adults who provide alcohol to children must recognize that their actions are placing the lives of young people in danger.
- **Parents who host parties with alcohol face large monetary penalties.**
Parents who host parties where alcohol is provided for their children and other minors expose themselves to civil lawsuits and huge financial losses resulting from alcohol related injuries and/or fatalities.
- **Parents of drunk drivers are liable.**
In addition to the tragic human toll from drunk driving and other alcohol related accidents, each conviction for operating under the influence of alcohol costs an average of \$4,500 in fines, program fees and attorney costs.

**Providing alcohol to minors is just not worth
risking the life of a child.**