

Safe Party Tips



Parties are a wonderful way for teens to celebrate, socialize, and relax with their friends. Planning is key hosting fun, safe, and successful parties. Here are tips for when your teen wants to host their friends.

Before the party

- Plan the party in advance – spontaneous or “open” parties often lead to trouble.
- Decide how many people are allowed to attend, what time the party will start and when it will end, how transportation will be handled after the party, and what activities may take place.
- Set a guest list and keep the party at a manageable number. Smaller parties are easier to control and monitor.
- Work together with your teen to establish ground rules for the party.
- Make your expectations clear – no alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs will be allowed at the party.
- Make sure that the consequences if expectations are not met are clear. Communication is vital!
- Be sure to talk with your teen about the danger of fentanyl and fentapills (counterfeit prescription pills laced with fentanyl). Fentapills are easily accessible and have led to the fentanyl poisoning and death of youth in our community. Educate yourself and your teen about fentanyl and the signs of fentanyl poisoning. Learn more at <http://bstrongtogether.org/what-you-need-to-know-about-fentanyl/>
- Brainstorm with your teen a few situations that might come up and how to best handle them.
- Encourage your teen to let the neighbors know that they are hosting a party and that you will be home to supervise.
- Put any alcohol and prescription drugs/medications safely away so that your guests don't have access to them.

During the party

- Discourage posting about the party on social media – this can lead to uninvited guests arriving. Be sure you have a plan with your teen for how to handle uninvited guests before the party starts. You need to be willing to call the police if unwanted guests refuse to leave.
- Do not allow kids to come and go from the party.
- Don't allow anyone into your home that is under the influence. Notify the parent of any teen that arrives under the influence of drugs or alcohol and ask them to come pick up their child to keep them safe.
- Be a good role model. Be friendly! Welcome your teen's friends so that they know that you are around and are happy that they are there.
- Be present and engaged. Adult chaperones need to be visible. Find spots where you are aware of the activities taking place in your house (and outside) and can supervise without being in the way. Do not go to bed while there are party-goers still present in your home.
- Have plenty of food and non-alcoholic beverages on hand. Food is the key to a successful party!! It doesn't need to be fancy, just foods that teenagers love. Have your teen put together a list of foods that they would like to serve. Tip – don't put all of the food out at the start of the party. Bring it out over time. Serving food and drinks provides you with a window into the activities at the party and the opportunity to meet your teen's friends.
- Be alert for signs of alcohol or other drug use. If you suspect a teen is intoxicated, call 911 and then call their parent.
- If things do get out of hand, do not hesitate to call parents and/or the police.

Important reminder!

When kids drink, parents pay in Illinois. The Social Host Law (IL SPLA 097-1049) holds parents and other adults accountable for knowingly permitting underage youth to consume alcoholic beverages at their residence or on other property they own or otherwise control. Potential fines range from \$500 to \$25,000 and penalties can even include jail time. If a minor who was drinking and driving at our house injures or kills someone, you can be held civilly liable and/or charged with a Class 4 felony. Remember: If you contact the police and request assistance before anyone files a complaint, you can avoid prosecution for the social host statute.